SAVAGE DRAGON

ARCHIVES

by Erik Larsen

VOLUME ONE

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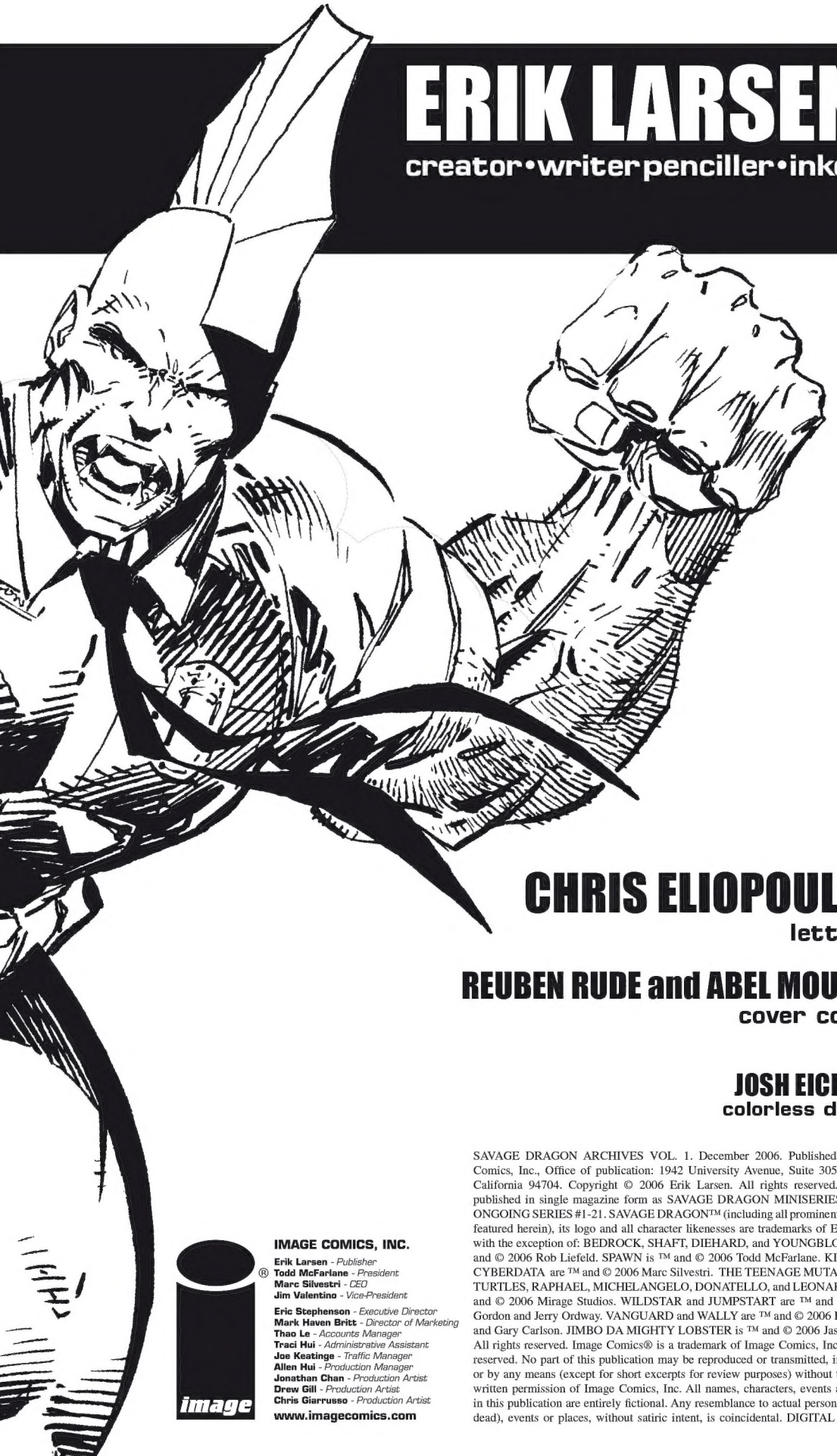

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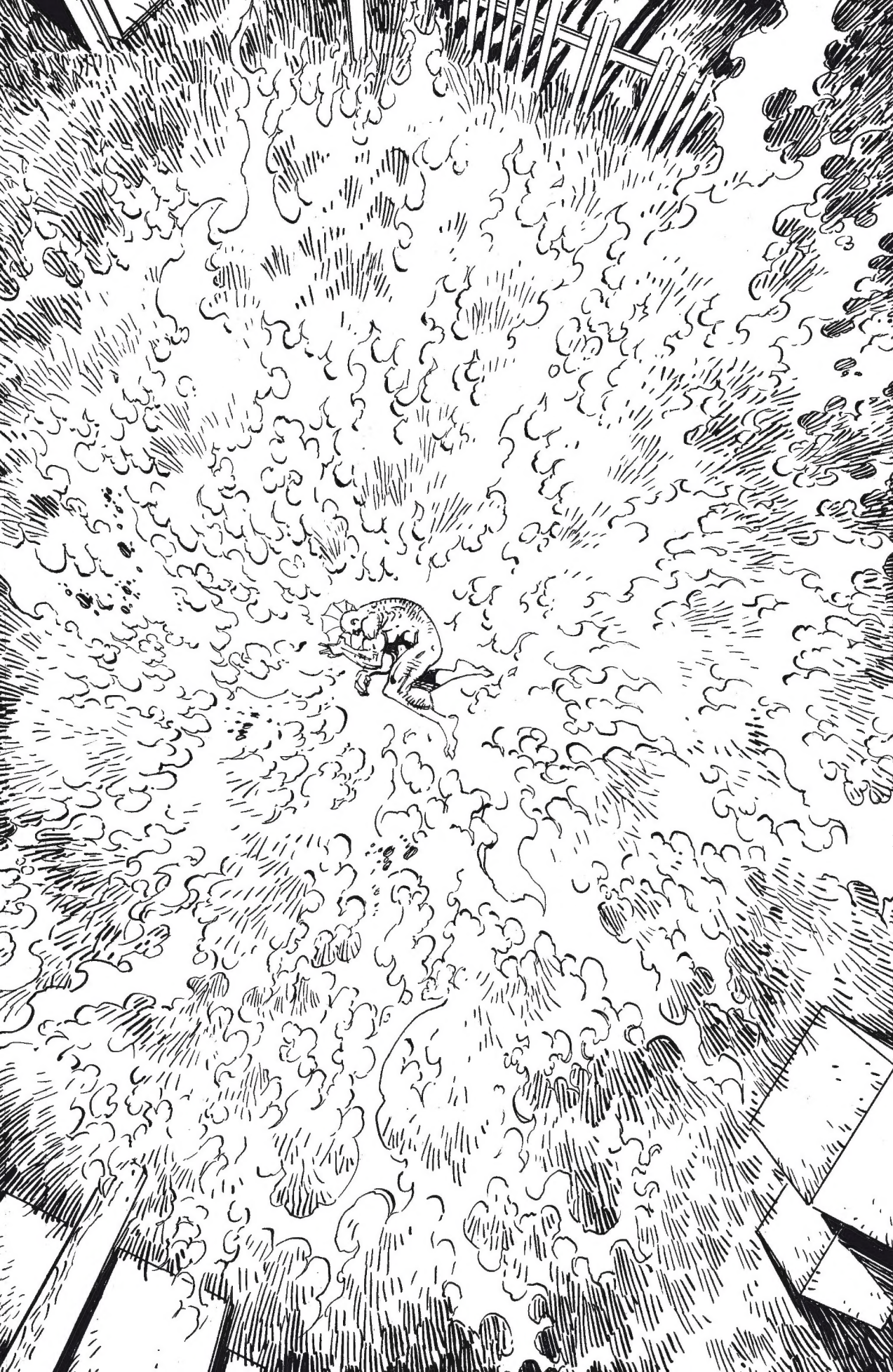


AWAKE?
GOOD.
I'M LIEUTENANT FRANK DARLING FROM THE CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT.
I'VE GOT A FEW QUESTIONS FOR YOU.
TO BEGIN WITH...
WHO ARE YOU?
I...
...I DON'T KNOW.
TERRIFIC.
DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU CAME FROM?
NO.

YOU WERE FOUND IN A BURNING VACANT LOT.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW YOU GOT THERE?
NONE.
DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR LIFE PRIOR TO WAKING UP HERE?
NO.
HOW COME YOU HAVE GREEN SKIN?
WERE YOU BORN THAT WAY?
WERE YOU IN SOME KIND OF ACCIDENT?
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
I DON'T KNOW.
WHO'S THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES?
GEORGE BUSH.
OKAY! THAT'S A START...
YOU'RE NOT A COMPLETE BLANK SLATE.
SO... WHO PLAYED FRED MERTZ?
WILLIAM FRAWLEY.
VERY GOOD.
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME THE CUBS WERE IN THE WORLD SERIES?
1945.
THAT'S RIGHT.
WHEN'S YOUR BIRTHDAY?
I DON'T KNOW.

IT'S THE STRANGEST THING I'VE EVER HEARD OF.
HE'S GOT NO MEMORY OF HIS LIFE PRIOR TO TODAY.
YET HE SEEMS TO HAVE FULL KNOWLEDGE OF EVERY-THING ELSE.

HE KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED ON L.A. LAW LAST WEEK BUT CAN'T TELL ME WHAT HE HAD FOR DINNER LAST NIGHT.
HE DOESN'T REMEMBER ANY OF HIS FAMILY OR FRIENDS.
IT'S WEIRD.
UH HUH.
YOU FINISHED?
OH... UH... YEAH, SURE.

THE DOCS DON'T KNOW IF HE'S A MUTANT OR A SPACE MAN. PHYSICALLY, HE'S VERY NEARLY HUMAN --
-- EXCEPT FOR HIS GREEN SKIN AND THAT FIN ON HIS HEAD.
STILL, HE'S AS STRONG AS ALL HELL -- THAT FIRE DIDN'T HURT HIM...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF IT.
HMMM...

LET ME TURN OFF THE T.V.
NO, WAIT!
...SUPER-PATRIOT IS IN CRITICAL CONDITION.

HE WAS BROUGHT INTO THE HOSPITAL TODAY WITH BOTH ARMS AND LEGS CRUSHED BEYOND REPAIR AND HALF OF HIS FACE MISSING.
DOCTORS SAY THAT IF HE LIVES, HE'LL NEVER WALK AGAIN.
SUPER-PATRIOT HAS BEEN FIGHT-ING CRIME SINCE THE 1940S WHEN..

OH MY GOD.

HOW ARE YOU DOING TODAY, MR. DRAGON?
FINE.
I WANT TO LEAVE.
I UNDERSTAND.
WHERE WILL YOU GO?
I'M NOT SURE.
BUT I CAN'T STAY HERE FOREVER.
WHAT DID YOU JUST CALL ME?
OH! HA... UM... MR. DRAGON.
IT'S 'CAUSE YOU'RE GREEN AND YOU HAVE THAT FIN ON YOUR HEAD.
I LIKE IT.
STILL HERE? GOOD.
I'VE GOT A PROPOSITION FOR YOU.
FRANK, WHY DON'T YOU CALL ME DRAGON UNTIL I CAN FIGURE OUT WHO I REALLY AM.
DRAGON, HUH? CUTE.
LISTEN, I TALKED TO MY COUSIN, FRED. HE COULD USE A GUY WITH A STRONG BACK IF YOU'RE INTERESTED.
HE'S GOT A LOFT OVER HIS WAREHOUSE. YOU COULD STAY THERE UNTIL YOU CAN GET BACK ON YOUR FEET.

THERE YOU ARE.
CATCHING UP ON YOUR READING?
LISTEN, DRAGON, I NEED YOUR HELP.
WE'RE BEING SLAUGHTERED OUT THERE. THE SUPER-FREAKS HAVE STOPPED US AT EVERY TURN. COPS ARE DYING, LOCAL SUPER-HEROES ARE BEING PUT OUT OF COMMISSION.
WE'RE LOSING THE BATTLE.
THE CRIMINALS ARE RUNNING THE CITY AND WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT. THE BAD GUYS ARE SUPERPOWERED MUTANTS -- WE JUST CAN'T FIGHT THAT
BUT YOU CAN.
YOU'VE GOT POWER, DRAGON -- WE NEED SOMEBODY LIKE YOU FIGHTING ON OUR SIDE.
HELP US, DRAGON.
YOU'RE OUR ONLY HOPE.
THAT'S QUITE A BURDEN TO PUT ON ONE MAN, DON'T YOU THINK?
LOOK FRANK, I THANK YOU FOR GETTING ME A JOB--
--AND FOR YOUR FRIEND-SHIP.
BUT I'M ONLY ONE MAN.
A MAN TRYING DESPERATELY TO FIND HIMSELF.
YOU'RE ASKING FOR TOO MUCH, FRANK, PLEASE... DON'T BURDEN ME WITH THIS.

SO, I JUST ASKED HIM OUTRIGHT AND HE *REFUSED*.
I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* TO *DO*.
I GOT HIM A *JOB* WORKING FOR MY COUSIN, FRED AT THE SHIPYARD AND A PLACE TO LIVE-- THE LOFT ABOVE THE WAREHOUSE WHERE HE WORKS.
DAMN IT-- HE *OWES* ME!
WITH ALL THAT'S GOING ON, CAN YOU *BLAME* HIM?
IT'S BEEN JUST OVER A *MONTH* SINCE HIS AWAKENING... MAYBE HE JUST NEEDS MORE TIME.
AND DON'T YOU GO THINKING THAT YOU WASTED *YOUR* TIME.
MOST SUPER-FREAKS TURN TO *CRIME* BUT THANKS TO *YOU*, THE DRAGON-MAN'S ON THE RIGHT PATH.
THINGS COULD BE A WHOLE LOT *WORSE*... YOU COULD BE HAVING TO FIGHT *HIM* TOO.
YEAH, YEAH, I *KNOW* THAT.
IT'S JUST THAT...
...WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME...
...OUT OF MANPOWER... AND OUT OF MORALE.
WE'RE *LOSING* THE BATTLE, MILDRED.
WHAT THE *HELL* AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
I DON'T KNOW...
PRAY.

WHERE IS IT?
WHERE IS IT?!
BAD MOVE, UGLY.
YOU'RE DUST.
YER CHOICE, MONKEY-MAN, COUGH UP THE DOUGH-- OR A LUNG.
CRASH!
GOT IT?
KRUNCH!
KILLER!

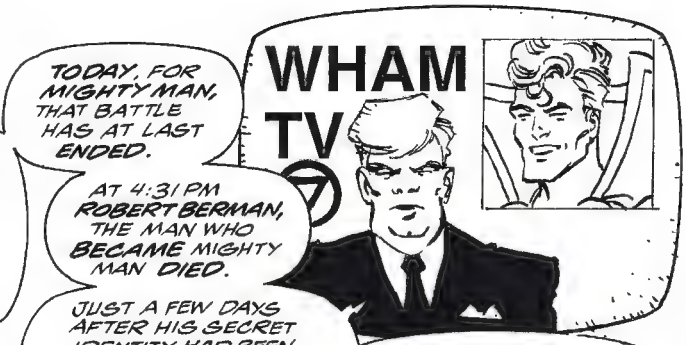
GIVE IT A REST.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
YOU SOME KINDA RETARD OR SOMETHIN'?
YOU'RE A SUPER-FREAK LIKE US.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING WORKING FOR A LIVING? YOU'RE STRONG ENOUGH TO TAKE WHATEVER THE HELL YOU WANT...
THAT'S WHERE THE REAL CASH IS.
THANKS FOR THE GUIDANCE COUNSELLING, PINHEAD.
I DO WANT ONE THING...
YOUR BUTT IN JAIL.

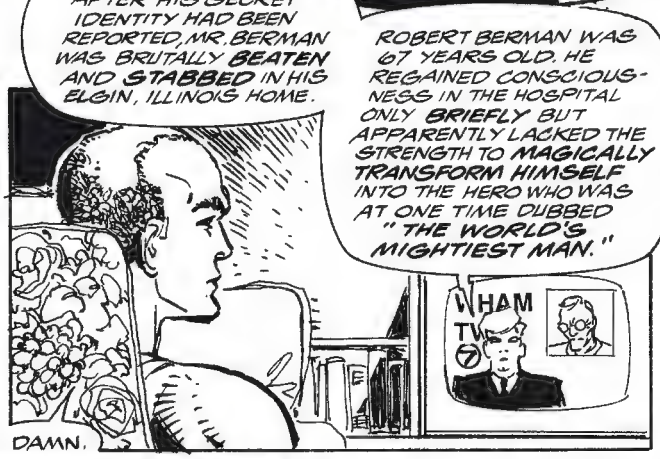
YOU'RE DEAD... YOU CHESS DONNO IT YET.
THAT'S ENOUGH OUT OF YOU, CREEP.
MOVE IT.
DAMN.
DAMN.
DAMN.
DAMN.
WHAT'S IT LOOK LIKE I'M DOING, YOU BIG IDIOT.
I'M GETTING THE HELL OUT OF HERE.
I SPENT A LIFETIME BUILDING THIS BUSINESS AND IN ONE MINUTE YOU'VE DESTROYED IT.
ALL THEY WANTED WAS MONEY -- NOW THEY WANT MY LIFE AND IT'S ALL YOUR DAMN FAULT.
YOU IDIOT!
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT.
WHAT IS IT, FRED?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
GET A GRIP ON YOURSELF.
YOU'LL BE OKAY.
I'LL PROTECT YOU.
I SWEAR IT.

BA-
DOOM!

DAMN.

SINCE THE EARLY 1940'S MIGHTY MAN HAS FOUGHT A NEVER ENDING BATTLE FOR LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS FOR ALL AMERICANS.


TODAY, FOR MIGHTY MAN, THAT BATTLE HAS AT LAST ENDED.
WHAM TV
AT 4:31 PM ROBERT BERMAN, THE MAN WHO BECAME MIGHTY MAN DIED.


JUST A FEW DAYS AFTER HIS SECRET IDENTITY HAD BEEN REPORTED, MR. BERMAN WAS BRUTALLY BEATEN AND STABBED IN HIS ELGIN, ILLINOIS HOME.
ROBERT BERMAN WAS 67 YEARS OLD. HE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS IN THE HOSPITAL ONLY BRIEFLY BUT APPARENTLY LACKED THE STRENGTH TO MAGICALLY TRANSFORM HIMSELF INTO THE HERO WHO WAS AT ONE TIME DUBBED "THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MAN."
WHAM TV
DAMN.

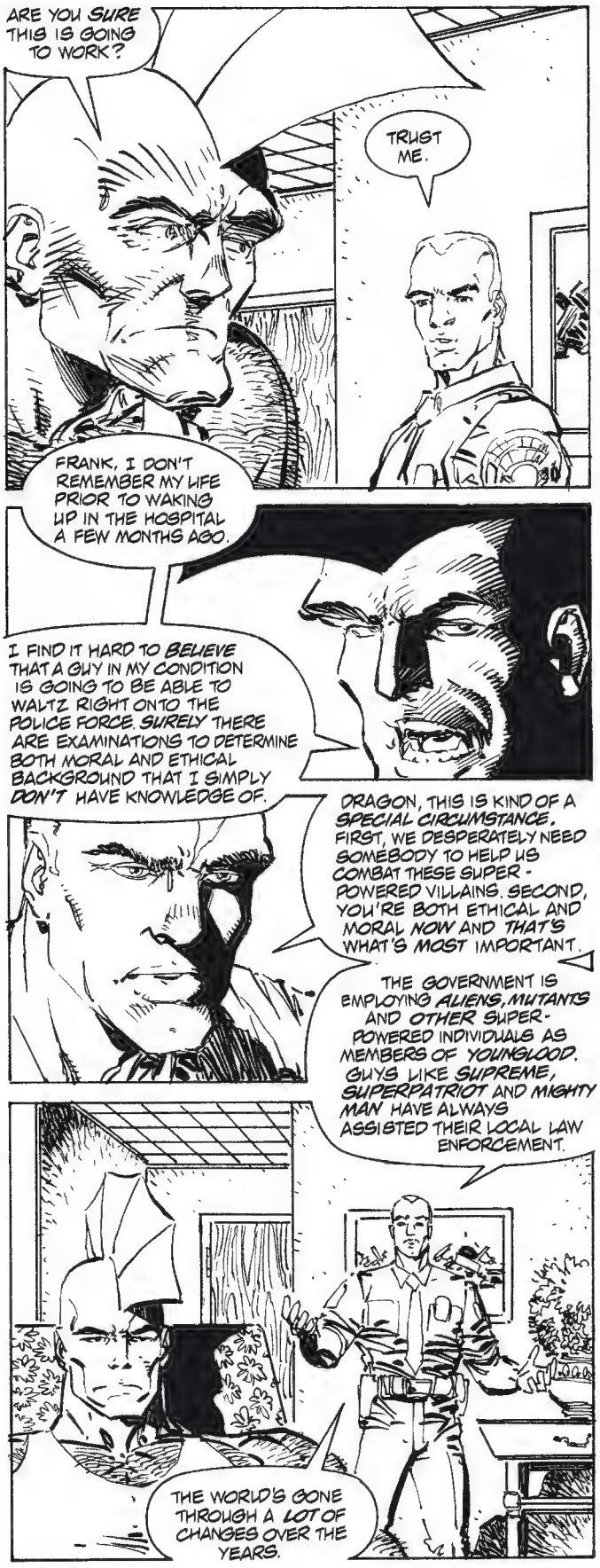
HE WILL BE MISSED.
WHAM TV
NOK!

NOK!

NOK!

DRAGON...?
'EVENING, FRANK. LITTLE TROUBLE DOWN AT THE OFFICE. BAD GUYS THREATENED FRED, I BROKE THEIR FACES AND THEY HAD THE PLACE BLOWN SKY HIGH.
THE BAD NEWS IS THAT YOUR COUSIN'S DEAD.
GOOD NEWS IS-- I'M READY TO TAKE YOU UP ON YOUR OFFER.
OH MY GOD.
ARE... ARE YOU OKAY?
PEACHY. I NEED SOME CLOTHES.
I'LL...UH... GET YOU SOMETHING TO WEAR.
YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
I'VE GOT NOTHING ELSE TO DO.
COUNT ME IN.
HOW SOON CAN I GET STARTED? I'LL NEED TO GO THROUGH THE POLICE ACADEMY.

HONEY...?
FRANK, WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?
EVERYTHING. MY LIFE IS FALLING APART.
SUPER-FREAKS TRIED TO EXTORT MONEY FROM FRED, THE DRAGON KICKED THEIR BUTTS SO THEY HAD FRED'S WAREHOUSE BLOWN SKY-HIGH. HE'S DEAD AND WE'VE GOT A GREEN HOUSEGUEST SLEEPING ON OUR COUCH.
IT'S ALL GOTTEN SO OUT OF HAND WITH THE SUPER-FREAKS KILLING MIGHTY MAN AND CRIPPLING SUPERPATRIOT. I WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT THE DRAGON DIDN'T WANT TO JOIN THE FORCE, BUT...
OH GOD... I NEEDED HIS HELP.
BUT NOT LIKE THIS. NOT LIKE THIS!
FRANK...?
NO. IT'S NOT OKAY, MILDRED.
IT'S OKAY, FRANK.
IT MAY NEVER BE OKAY AGAIN.
EVERYTHING WILL BE OKAY.


ARE YOU SURE THIS IS GOING TO WORK?
TRUST ME.
FRANK, I DON'T REMEMBER MY LIFE PRIOR TO WAKING UP IN THE HOSPITAL A FEW MONTHS AGO.
I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT A GUY IN MY CONDITION IS GOING TO BE ABLE TO WALTZ RIGHT ONTO THE POLICE FORCE. SURELY THERE ARE EXAMINATIONS TO DETERMINE BOTH MORAL AND ETHICAL BACKGROUND THAT I SIMPLY DON'T HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF.
DRAGON, THIS IS KIND OF A SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE. FIRST, WE DESPERATELY NEED SOMEBODY TO HELP US COMBAT THESE SUPER-POWERED VILLAINS. SECOND, YOU'RE BOTH ETHICAL AND MORAL NOW AND THAT'S WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT.
THE GOVERNMENT IS EMPLOYING ALIENS, MUTANTS AND OTHER SUPER-POWERED INDIVIDUALS AS MEMBERS OF YOUNGBLOOD. GUYS LIKE SUPREME, SUPERPATRIOT AND MIGHTY MAN HAVE ALWAYS ASSISTED THEIR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT.
THE WORLD'S GONE THROUGH A LOT OF CHANGES OVER THE YEARS.

"I DON'T ANTICIPATE ANY PROBLEMS."
Y'KNOW, GUYS, AT THIS POINT...
... I'D RECOMMEND YOU SURRENDER.

JEE-ZUSS!
NICE SHOOTING! SIX BULLETS--ONE HOLE.
WHERE DID YOU LEARN TO SHOOT LIKE THAT?
LOOK, I DON'T KNOW.
I DON'T KNOW!
I DON'T KNOW WHO I AM, HOW I GOT HERE OR WHERE I CAME FROM.
I DON'T KNOW!
I'M STRONGER THAN ANY HUMAN'S GOT A RIGHT TO, BE AND I DON'T KNOW HOW I GOT THIS WAY.
I JUST DON'T KNOW!
SORRY.
SORRY I SAID ANYTHING.
RELAX, DRAGON.
DON'T LET IT DRIVE YOU CRAZY.

DRAGON, I'D LIKE TO OFFICIALLY *WELCOME YOU* TO THE CHICAGO POLICE FORCE.
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO A FEW OF THE OTHER COPS.
MAN!
LOOK AT *HIM!*
DRAGON WILL BE ACTING AS SORT OF A ONE MAN S.W.A.T. TEAM.
HIS PRIMARY FUNCTION WILL BE DEALING WITH THE SUPER-POWERED *LOW-LIFES* THAT HAVE BEEN PLAGUING OUR FAIR CITY.
HEY, HEY!
LIGHTEN UP, PEOPLE.
I DON'T BITE.
AHEM...

THIS IS SGT. BRUCE ROBINSON.
HELLO.
WILLIAM JONSON.
CHARMED.
OFFICER ALEX WILDE.
HI.
OFFICER PHIL DIRT.
HELLO THERE!
OFFICER HOWARD NISEMAN.
WORKIN' WITH FREAKS.
WHAT'S NEXT, FER CHRISSAKE?
SETTLE DOWN, BIG FELLOW.
JUST BECAUSE I'VE GOT GREEN SKIN, DOESN'T MEAN I'M NOT A NICE GUY.
YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE HOWARD, HE'S A BIT TESTY AFTER NEARLY GETTING HIS BUTT KICKED OUT OF HERE FOR SEVERELY BEATING AN INNOCENT BLACK MAN.
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY BIGOT.
LOVELY.
UH... DRAGON, THERE ARE A FEW MORE PEOPLE I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET...!
THIS AIN'T OVER.
I'LL HAVE WORDS WITH YOU LATER, FREAK.

LISTEN UP, FREAK.
I DON'T LIKE YOUR KIND.
TRYING TO TAKE OVER OUR COUNTRY--PUSH US REAL AMERICANS AROUND.
BAD ENOUGH THAT I GOTTA WORK WITH DAMN JUNGLE BUNNIES. BUT THIS...!
YOU KEEP OUT OF MY WAY, Y'HEAR?
I'VE BEEN TOP DOG AROUND HERE FOR A LONG TIME AND I INTEND TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.
I CAN MAKE YOUR LIFE A LIVING HELL.
NOW...
YOU DO AS YOU'RE TOLD AND THERE WON'T BE ANY TROUBLE.
GOT IT?
I DON'T MIND TROUBLE.
IT'S BLOWHARDS LIKE YOU I CAN DO WITHOUT.
CRUSH

UUUUNNGHH
I HATE TOUGH GUYS.
YOU THINK THAT "MIGHT MAKES RIGHT." THAT WEARING A BADGE AUTOMATICALLY MAKES ALL OF YOUR ACTIONS CORRECT. YOU'RE WRONG.
THINGS LIKE THE RODNEY KING BEATING AND YOUR LITTLE EPISODE ARE TURNING PEOPLE AGAINST THE POLICE.
YOUR PREJUDICE AND INTOLERANCE IS HURTING ALL OF US. WE'RE LOSING THE PUBLIC'S TRUST.
STEREOTYPES ARE WHERE YOU FIND THEM.
BECAUSE OF MEN LIKE YOU, COPS ARE BEING STEREOTYPED AS THE BAD GUYS, AS UNREASONABLE, IRRATIONAL, NARROW-MINDED BIGOTS.
WE NEED TO BREAK DOWN THE RACIAL BARRIERS, END RACISM THROUGH EDUCATION AND RE-AFFIRM WHAT WE'RE HERE FOR--TO SERVE AND PROTECT THE PEOPLE YOU'RE ALIENATING.
THIS ISN'T ABOUT GETTING TO BEAT UP INNOCENT CITIZENS BECAUSE YOU DON'T LIKE THE WAY THEY LOOK. WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE GOOD GUYS.
START ACTING LIKE IT.

WHAT'S THE STORY?
THIS CUT THROAT DUDE AND HIS BABE GLOWBUG ARE TRASHING THAT BANK.
THEY'VE OFFED SOME COPS AND A WHOLE BUNCH OF CIVILIANS.
IT'S A REAL MESS IN THERE.
THE DUDE'S GOT SOME SORT OF BLADE FOR AN ARM AND HE'S CHOPPING PEOPLE UP. I GUESS HE'S BULLETPROOF OR SOMETHING -- THE COPS COULDN'T DO ANYTHING TO THE GUY.
THE GLOWBUG BABE'S GOT SOME LIGHT POWERS THAT...
OH.
YEAH...
WELL... UH...
GO GET 'EM.

BAPTISM OF
FIRE
BLOODY HELL.

OH MY GOD--

CUT-THROAT. LOOK OUT!!

UNNGH!

HUORK!

SLASHH!!
A MONSTER...
CORS SENT A DAMN MONSTER TO GET ME.
SHAKK!
LEAVE HIM ALONE, YOU FREAK.
LEAVE MY MAN ALONE!
WHOK!!!
GLOWBUG...!
CHUNT!!
YOU GREEN BASTARD!
YOU'RE MEAT, FREAK.
BWUD

HUAKK!
Y'THINK YOU CAN--
UNNGH!
OOOF!
UHHH!

GONNA... ;COUGH; GONNA RIP OUT... YOUR LUNGS FER THAT ONE...
NATIONAL BANK
STINKIN'... ;COUGH; FREAKCOP, YOU DIDN'T... ;COUGH; HURT ME.
Y'THINK I CAN'T BEAT YOU?
Y'THINK I SHOULD JUST GIVE UP... LET YOU TAKE ME IN?
GONNA GUT YOU, FREAK.
KEEP AWAY FROM ME, Y'HEAR?
I'LL DICE YOU JUST LIKE THE OTHER PIGS.
I'LL CUT YOU IN HALF, FREAK.
STAY BACK.
I WON'T LET YOU... ;COUGH; TAKE ME IN...
I'M STRONGER... TOUGHER... FASTER THAN YOU...
...YOU DIDN'T HURT ME... I CAN STILL BEAT YOU.
SAY SOMETHING TO ME, YOU GREEN BASTARD.. TALK TO ME.
GIVE ME ONE... ;COUGH; GOOD REASON WHY I SHOULD LET YOU TAKE ME IN.

BECAUSE
I
SAY
SO.

GOOD ENOUGH.

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
I'LL KILL YOU... BASTARD.
YOU AIN'T SEEN THE LAST OF ME.
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

GOOD JOB, DRAGON.
WELCOME TO THE FORCE.
THANKS.

ROUGH DAY?
I'VE HAD WORSE.

GAS
THAT'S ENOUGH OUT OF YOU, CREEP.
BUDUDU!
NOW... PLAY DEAD.
GOOD BOY.

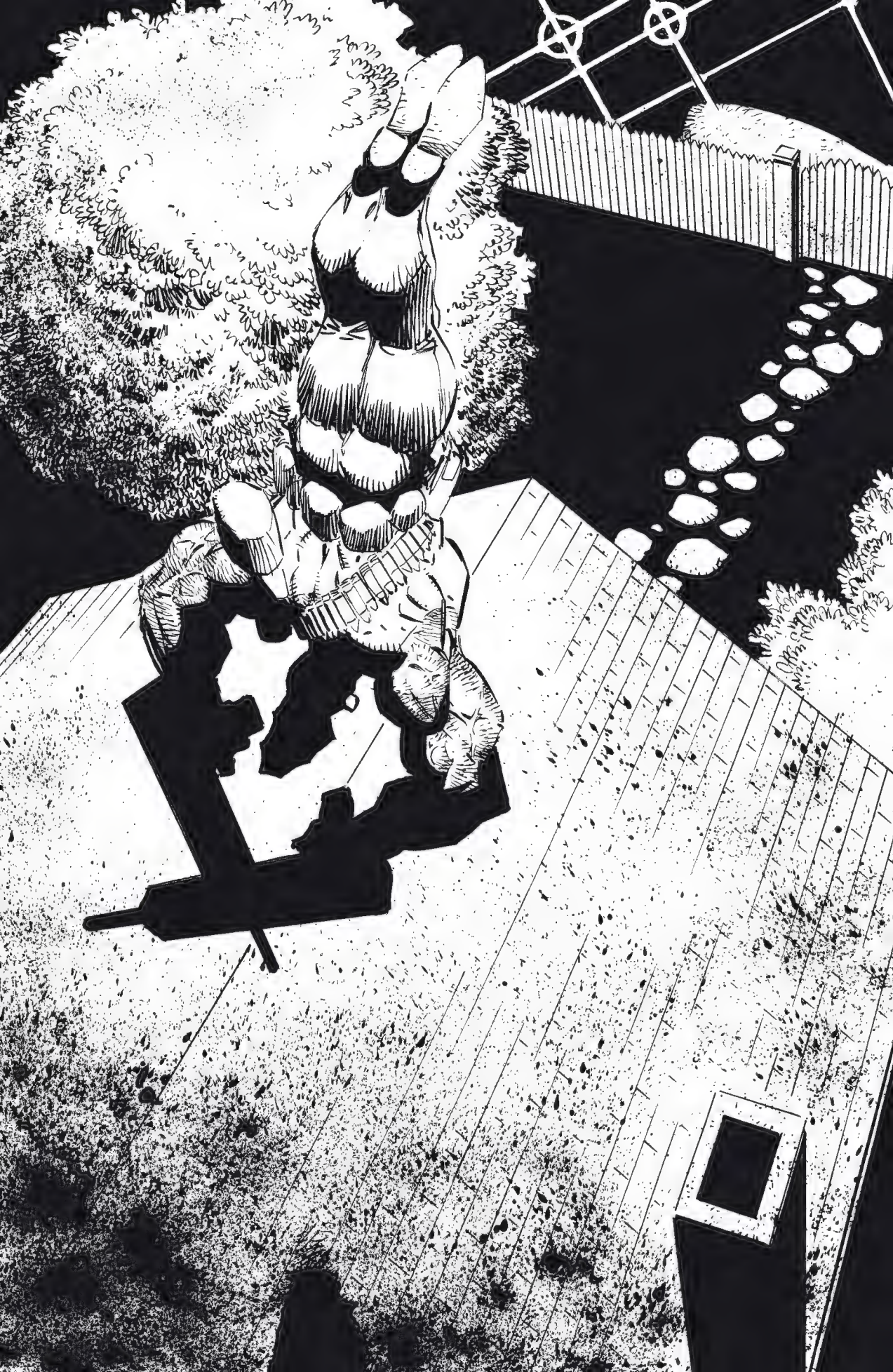
THIS IS CINDY MARTINEZ FOR THE SIX O'CLOCK NEWS.
TODAY A NEW ERA BEGAN FOR THE CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT AS THE FIRST SUPER-POWERED BEING JOINED THEIR RANKS.
OFFICER DRAGON IS HIS NAME AND IN A FEW SHORT HOURS HE'S HAULED IN MORE SUPER-POWERED CRIMINALS THAN THE REST OF THE FORCE HAS CAPTURED ALL YEAR.
LIEUTENANT FRANK DARLING IS THE MAN BEHIND THE SCENES WHO TOOK AN AMNESIAC MUTANT FROM A BURNING FIELD AND CONVINCED HIM TO BE A FORCE FOR GOOD.
DARLING UNTANGLED A SEA OF RED TAPE TO GET HIS MAN ON THE FORCE AND IT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN WORTH ALL OF HIS EFFORT.
ALTHOUGH MEMBERS OF THE FREAK COMMUNITY HAVE BRANDED HIM AS "A TRAITOR WHO TURNED HIS BACK ON HIS OWN"; OTHERS HAVE HAILED HIM AS THE FIRST "POSITIVE ROLE MODEL" FOR YOUNG PARANORMALS.
OFFICER DRAGON DECLINED OUR INVITATION TO TALK ON CAMERA BUT OTHER MEMBERS OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT HAD THIS TO SAY...

WE DIDN'T HAVE 'EM BEFORE AND WE DON'T NEED 'EM NOW.
WE ALWAYS DID THE JOB BEFORE.
OFFICER HOWARD NICEMAN
HE SEEMS LIKE A PRETTY NICE GUY.
HE DON'T SEEM SO DIFFERENT FROM THE REST OF US, REALLY.
SGT. WALT GILROY
HE'S GOT A JOB TO DO AND HE'S DOING IT.
THE FREAKS HAVE UPPED THE ANTI IN THE POWER DEPARTMENT AND IT'S ABOUT TIME THE POLICE FOLLOWED SUIT. I THINK IT'S A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.
OFFICER MERCY RODRIGUEZ
OFFICER DRAGON IS OUR ANSWER TO CHICAGO'S PROBLEMS, WE NEEDED SOME MUSCLE ON OUR SIDE AND DRAGON'S THE MAN FOR THE JOB.
I COULDN'T BE MORE PROUD OF THE JOB HE'S DOING.
LT. FRANK DARLING
AS FOR THE REACTIONS OF THE MAN ON THE STREET, WE GOT THESE RESPONSES...
I THINK IT'S A GREAT IDEA. FIRST HE SHOULD DEAL WITH THE FREAK SITUATION AND THEN HE COULD TAKE CARE OF THE NIGGERS.
MICHAEL HUNT
I'M MOVING MY FAMILY OUT OF THE CITY. IT'S GOTTEN TOO SCARY. ONE FREAK COP ON THE FORCE DOESN'T IMPRESS ME.
THEY'LL WHUP HIM JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHERS.
JUDITH POLLACK
THE CITY HAS MANY PROBLEMS. THE FREAKS ARE JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG.
IF HE CAN TAKE CARE OF THEM AND THE HOMELESS AND THE PARKING AND THE INSURANCE RATES AND INFLATION THEN MAYBE THAT WOULD BE SOMETHING.
I'M GLAD I DON'T LIVE HERE.
TED STEINBERG
HE'S A FREAK BUT SO WHAT--HE'S GORGEOUS.
I WOULDN'T KICK HIM OUT OF BED.
SHARONA JACKSON

WRAMM
YOU...
...ARE...
ARAKK
...UNDER...
RUNKK
...ARREST!
HWOKK
GOT ANOTHER ONE FOR YOU, BIG GUY...!
DON'T YOU EVER SHUT UP?!

BLAMMM!
BLAMMM!
AAAAAH!
CRAP!
OOOF!
DANG IT!
CALL FOR BACK-UP!
GET ME SOME DAMN BACK-UP!
HI.
CARE TO LEND A HAND?

THERE'S ABOUT 20 GUYS IN THAT HOUSE ALONG WITH A COUPLE OF HOSTAGES.
THEY'VE ALREADY KILLED ENOUGH PEOPLE TO... HEY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
CHICAGO PUBLICE DEPT.
I'M GOING IN.
OH BOY.
UH... HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET...
CHRIST.



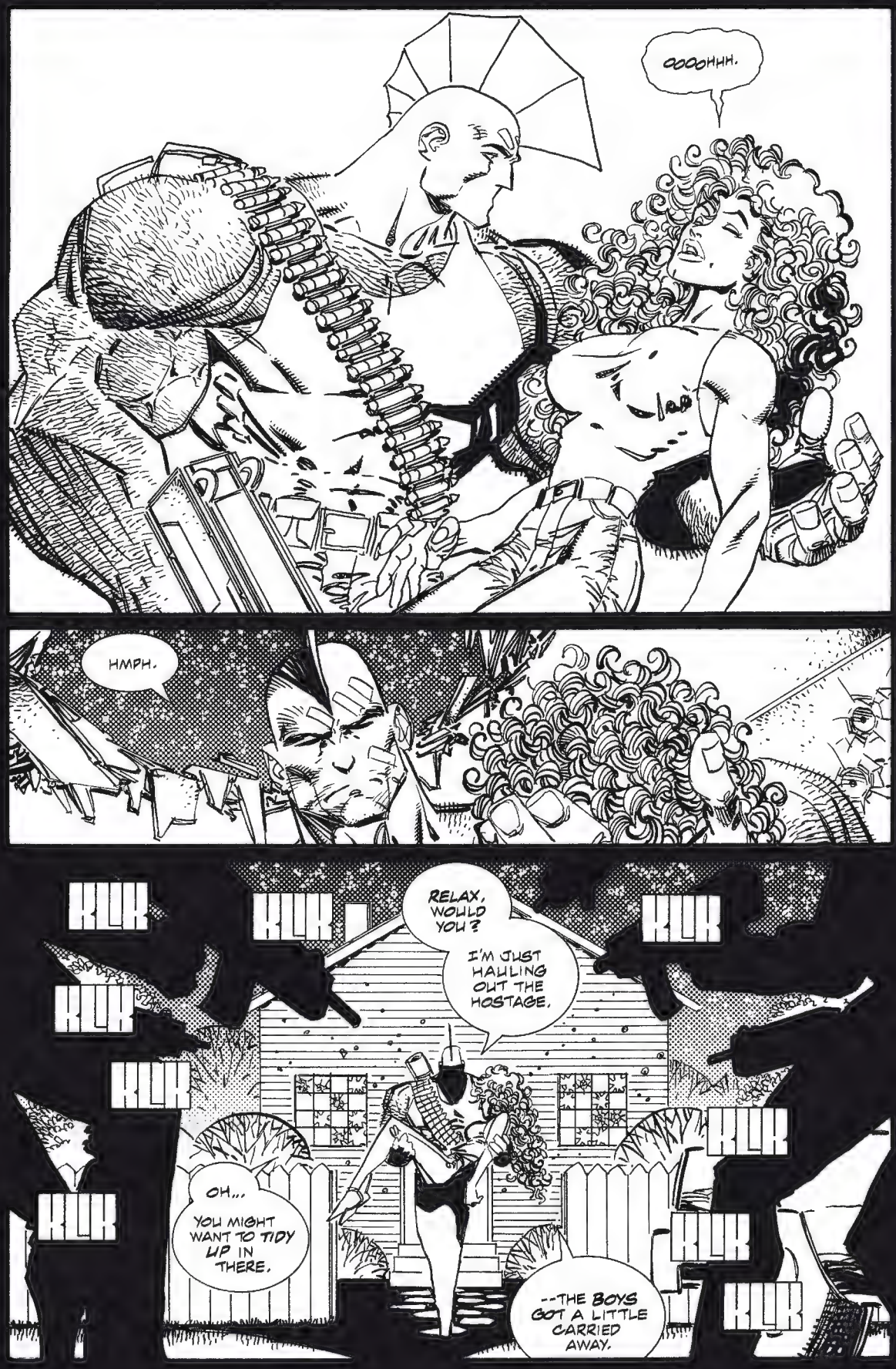
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST.
GO OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP.
HOLEE--!
SHOOT HIM!
KILL THE SON OF A BITCH.

BAD MOVE.
THOR
THOR
THOR
THOR
THOR
UUUNGH!
EEAUGH!
DIE! DIE! DIE!
THAK
THAK
THAK
THAK
EEAUGH!

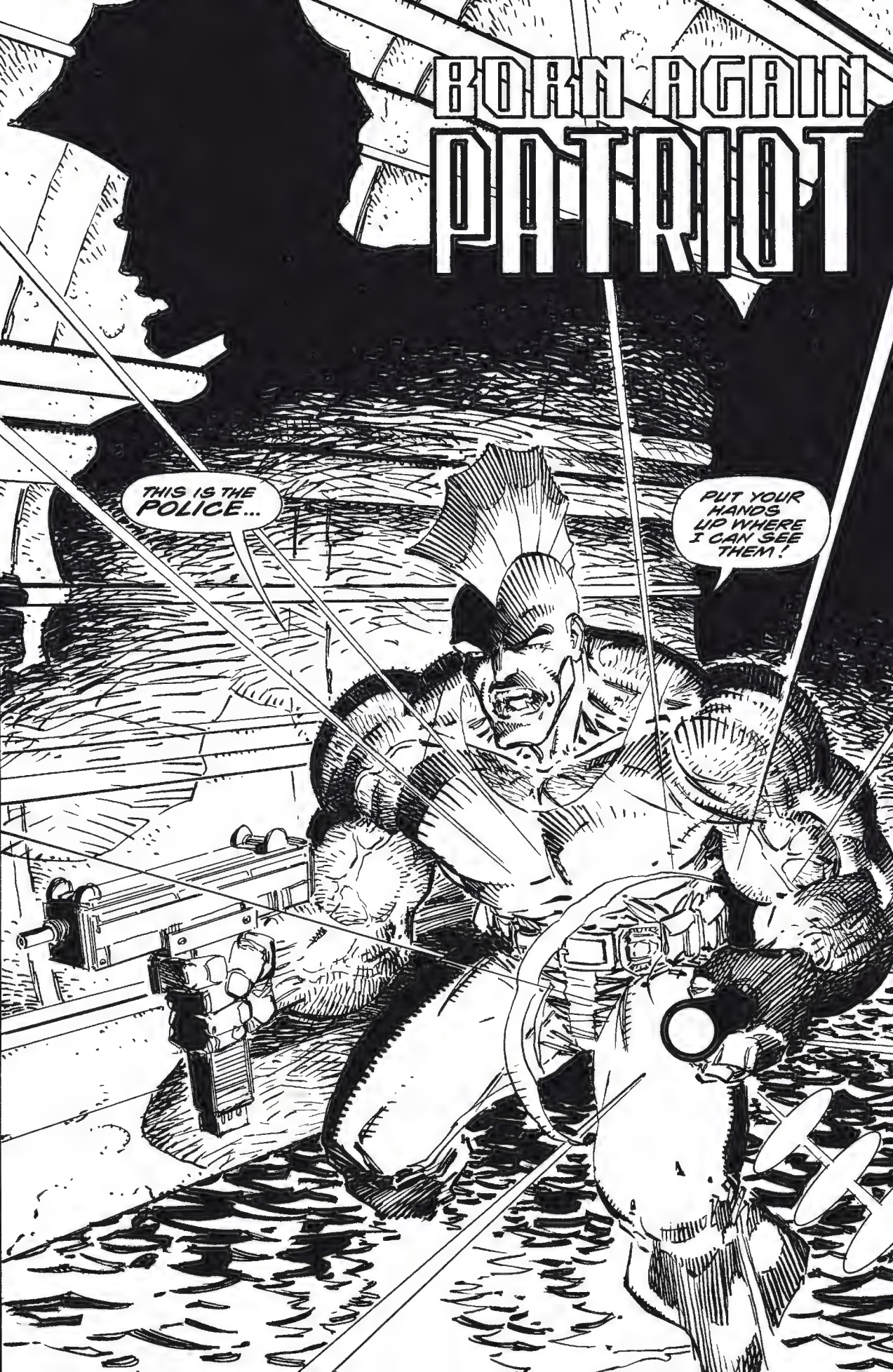
THOK!
THOK!
THOK!
THOK!

BRAKK
BLAM BLAM
YEEAAGH!
THAT HURT!
READY TO GIVE UP?
DROP IT, FREAK!
OR I'LL KILL THE GIRL!
WRONG ANSWER.
THOK THOK THOK THO

KA-BLAM!
DON'T KILL ME!
YOU'RE LUCKY I DON'T.
NICE SHOOTING, FIN-HEAD, TWENTY THREE DOWN AND WOUNDED. ZERO DEAD. PLUS, I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT YOU'D HAVE FOUND A WAY OUT OF THAT LITTLE PREDICAMENT THAT YOU'D GOTTEN YOURSELF INTO.
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, PAJAMA-MAN.
CAN THE THEAT-RICS, FRIEND. WE'RE FIGHTING THE SAME BATTLE.
AND THE NAME IS STAR. JUST ANOTHER CONCERN-ED CITIZEN DOING HIS PART TO HELP OUT.
BE SEEING YOU.


OOOOHHH.
HMPH.
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK
RELAX, WOULD YOU?
I'M JUST HAULING OUT THE HOSTAGE.
OH... YOU MIGHT WANT TO TIDY UP IN THERE.
--THE BOYS GOT A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY.

OFFICER DRAGON...
CHIC POLICE
OFFICER DRAGON.
CAN I ASK YOU...
FEW QUESTIONS FOR YOU...
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH?
HOW WAS YOUR FIRST DAY ON THE JOB?
WHAT ARE YOU?
LOOK, I DON'T WANT OR EXPECT ANY KIND OF SPECIAL TREATMENT.
I'M JUST ANOTHER COP. THIS CITY HAS BEEN HELD DOWN FOR TOO LONG. IT'S BEEN TAKEN OVER BY VERMIN WHO PREY ON THE INNOCENTS.
I'M HERE TO TAKE IT BACK.
OF COURSE YOU REALIZE... THIS MEANS WAR.
BOSS...?
DO AS YOU PLEASE, HELLRAZOR.
HIS FEEBLE ATTEMPTS TO RESTORE ORDER ARE OF LITTLE CONCERN TO ME.
HEAR THAT, BOYS?
MORE FUN!


BORN AGAIN
PATRIOT
THIS IS THE POLICE...
PUT YOUR HANDS UP WHERE I CAN SEE THEM!

POLICE-- HA!

OOOOOH... ARACHNID SCARED.. THE POLICE ARE GOING TO GET ARACHNID.

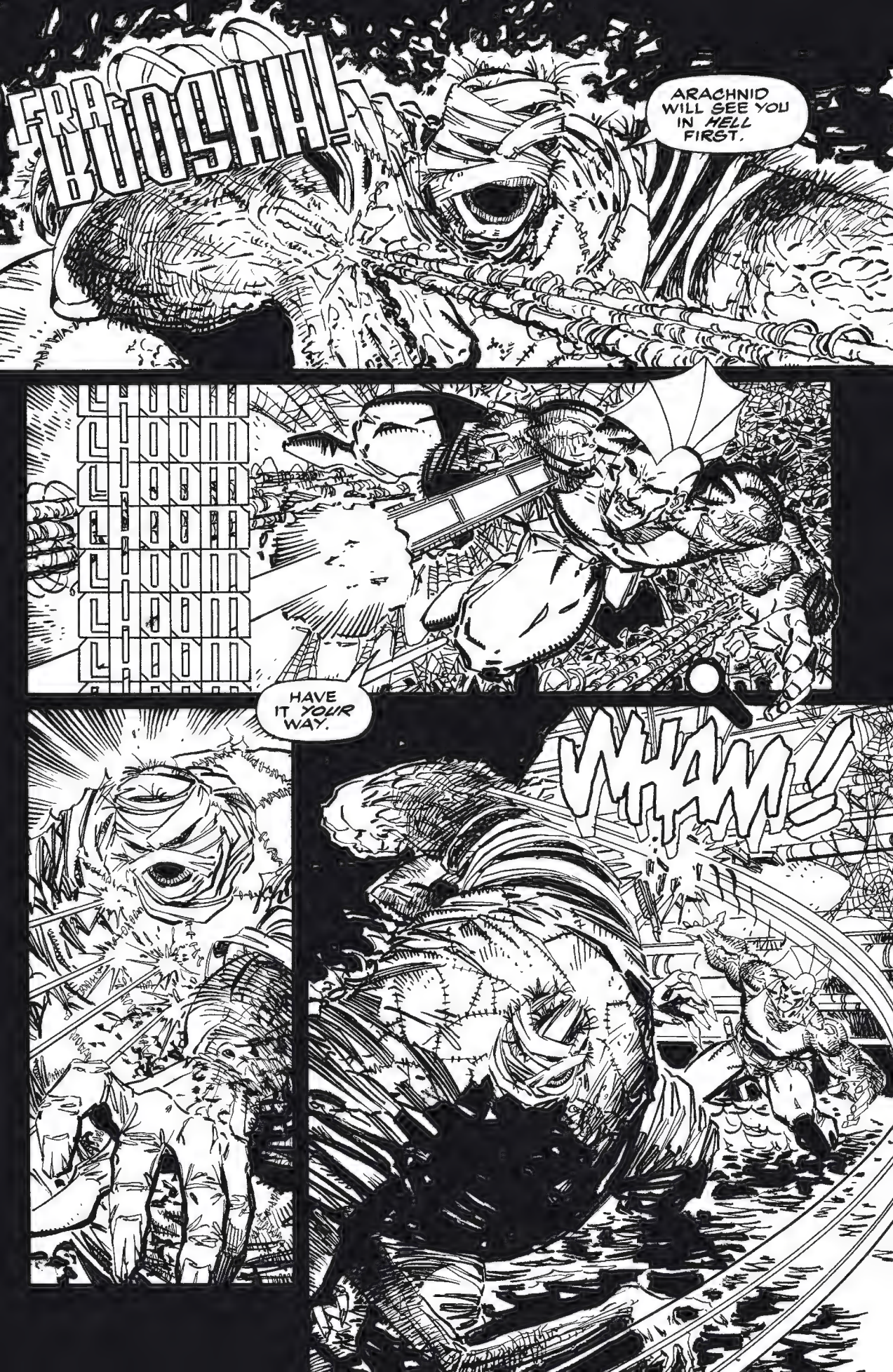
THEY'RE GOING TO BEAT ARACHNID UP AND TAKE HIM TO JAIL.

YEAH... RIGHT!

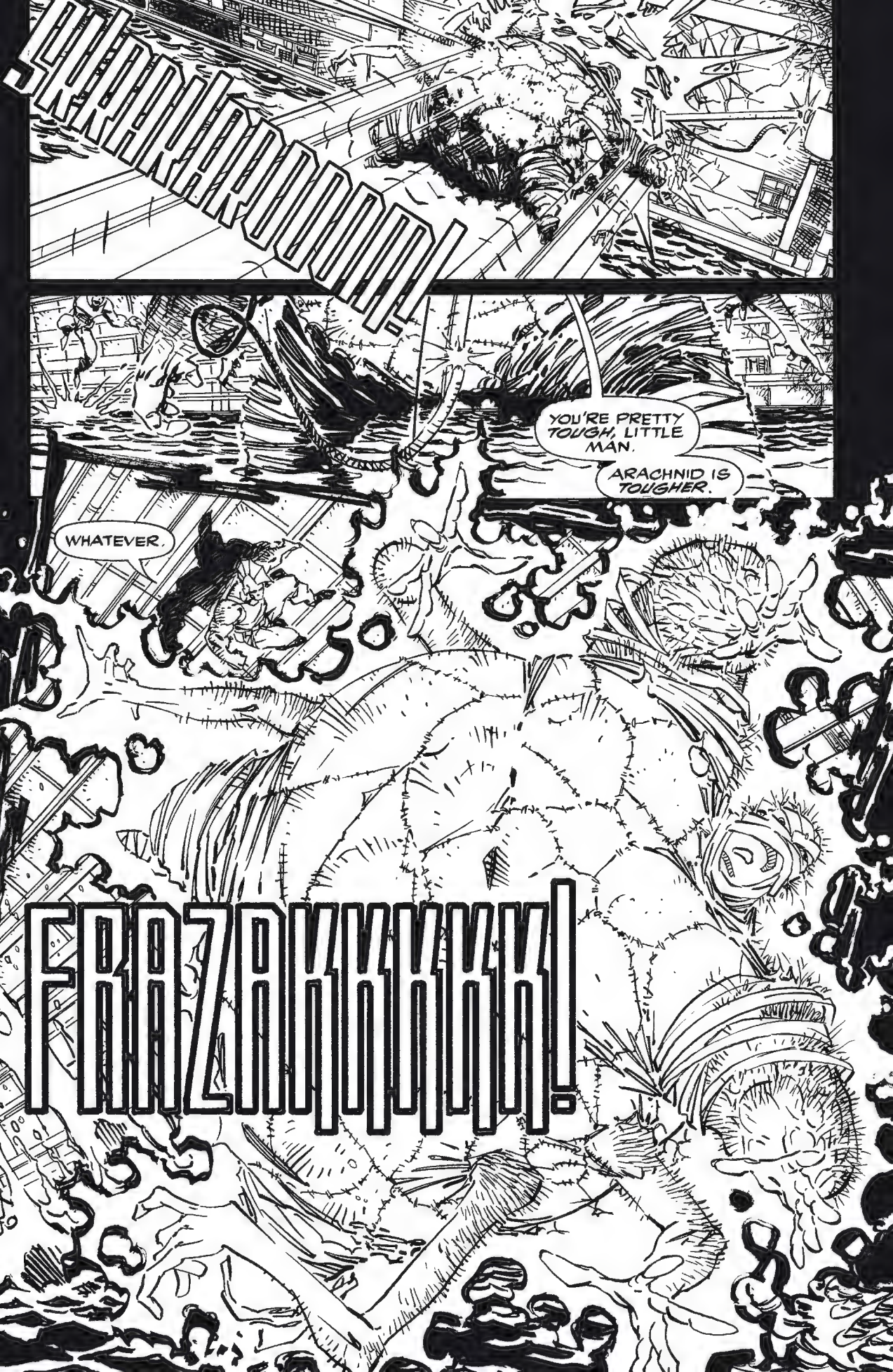
ARACHNID'S GOT PIECES OF GUYS BIGGER THAN YOU IN HIS FECAL MATTER.

I SUGGEST SURRENDERING QUIETLY.

I'M NOT IN A GOOD MOOD.

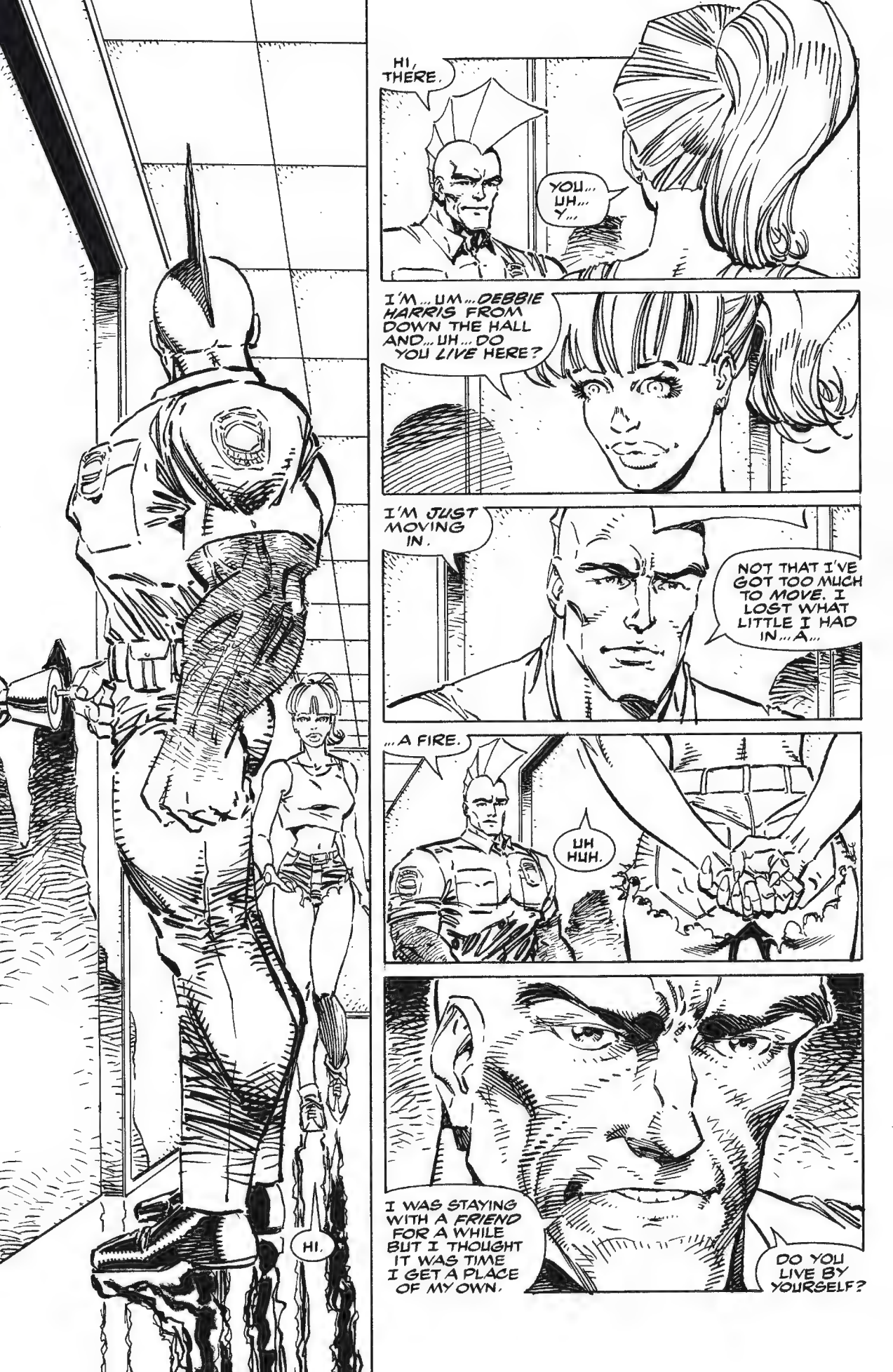

FRAOOSHA!
ARACHNID WILL SEE YOU IN HELL FIRST.
CHOOM CHOOM CHOOM CHOOM CHOOM CHOOM
HAVE IT YOUR WAY.
WHAM!

HUAKK!


KRAKAROOM!
YOU'RE PRETTY TOUGH, LITTLE MAN.
ARACHNID IS TOUGHER.
WHATEVER.
FRAZZAKKKK!

CHRIST. WHO IS THAT?
WHAT A STENCH.
GET USED TO IT.
WE'VE GOT A LOT OF CLEANING UP TO DO.
THIS BLOATED MAGGOT WAS FEEDING ON CHILDREN.
GOOD LORD.
YUCK.
YOU DIDN'T MISS MUCH.
HRUUNNGGH.
THE YEARS HAVE MADE HIM SOFT, FAT AND LAZY. HE'D GOTTEN TOO BIG FOR HIS OWN GOOD. HE DIDN'T PUT UP MUCH OF A FIGHT.
STILL, IT'S AMAZING THE DAMAGE HE'S DONE. THE REMAINS OF THE DEAD SEEM TO GO ON FOREVER.
SOMEBODY HAD TO PUT AN END TO THIS INHUMANITY.
DAMN, LOOK AT HIM. HE GOT AWAY WITH IT FOR YEARS BECAUSE THERE WAS NOBODY AROUND WHO COULD STOP HIM.
HOW COULD HE DO IT?
YOU REALLY SAVED THE DAY THIS TIME, DRAGON
I WOULDN'T BE HERE WITHOUT YOU, FRANK.
DON'T FORGET THAT.

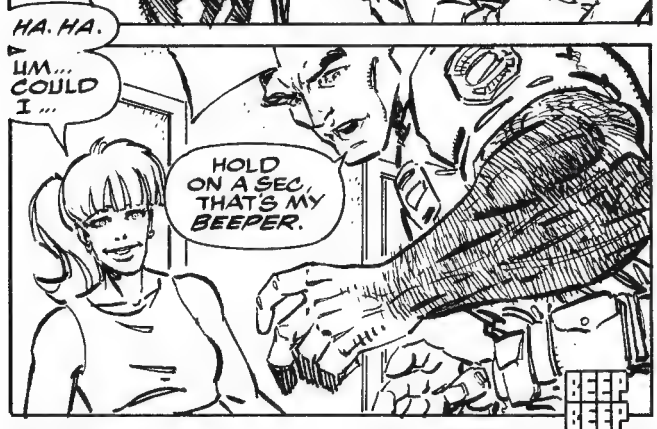
NOW.
HE AWAKENS.
REBORN.
SINCE THE '40S HE FOUGHT TO PRESERVE THE DREAM AS AMERICA'S FIGHTING FORCE: SUPERPATRIOT. A YEAR AGO HE WAS LEFT A BROKEN MAN, HALF OF HIS FACE MISSING, ARMS AND LEGS SHATTERED BEYOND REPAIR.
SUPER-FREAKS FROM CHICAGO'S VICIOUS CIRCLE DESTROYED HIS BODY AND LEFT HIM TO DIE.
HE'S BACK.
CYBERDATA HAS REBUILT AMERICA'S FIGHTING FORCE AS THE ULTIMATE KILLING MACHINE. IN EXCHANGE FOR REVENGE AND TO BE WHOLE ONCE MORE, HE WOULD HAVE MADE A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL HIMSELF.
THAT'S NOT FAR FROM WHAT HE'S DONE.
NOW, AT LAST, HE'S READY TO DO WHAT HE FEELS HE MUST.
AT LAST.
THE TIME IS NOW.


HI, THERE.
YOU... UH... Y...
I'M... UM... DEBBIE HARRIS FROM DOWN THE HALL AND... UH... DO YOU LIVE HERE?
I'M JUST MOVING IN.
NOT THAT I'VE GOT TOO MUCH TO MOVE. I LOST WHAT LITTLE I HAD IN... A...
...A FIRE.
UH HUH.
I WAS STAYING WITH A FRIEND FOR A WHILE BUT I THOUGHT IT WAS TIME I GET A PLACE OF MY OWN.
DO YOU LIVE BY YOURSELF?
HI.

ACTUALLY... NO, I LIVE WITH MY MOM. SAME OLD STORY, I WANT TO MOVE OUT BUT MONEY'S KIND OF, YOU KNOW, TIGHT RIGHT NOW.
ARE YOU A MEMBER OF YOUNGBLOOD OR SOMETHING?

NO.
I JUST JOINED THE CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT, MAYBE YOU SAW ME ON THE NEWS... ?

THAT MUST BE IT -- YOUNGBLOOD'S PRETTY COOL.
I'M NOT THE SPANDEX TYPE, MYSELF. I DON'T THINK THEY ACCEPT ANYBODY WHO DOESN'T HAVE PERFECT HAIR AND WEAR THEIR UNDERWEAR ON THE OUTSIDE OF THEIR PANTS.


HA. HA.
UM... COULD I ...
HOLD ON A SEC, THAT'S MY BEEPER.
BEEP BEEP BEEP

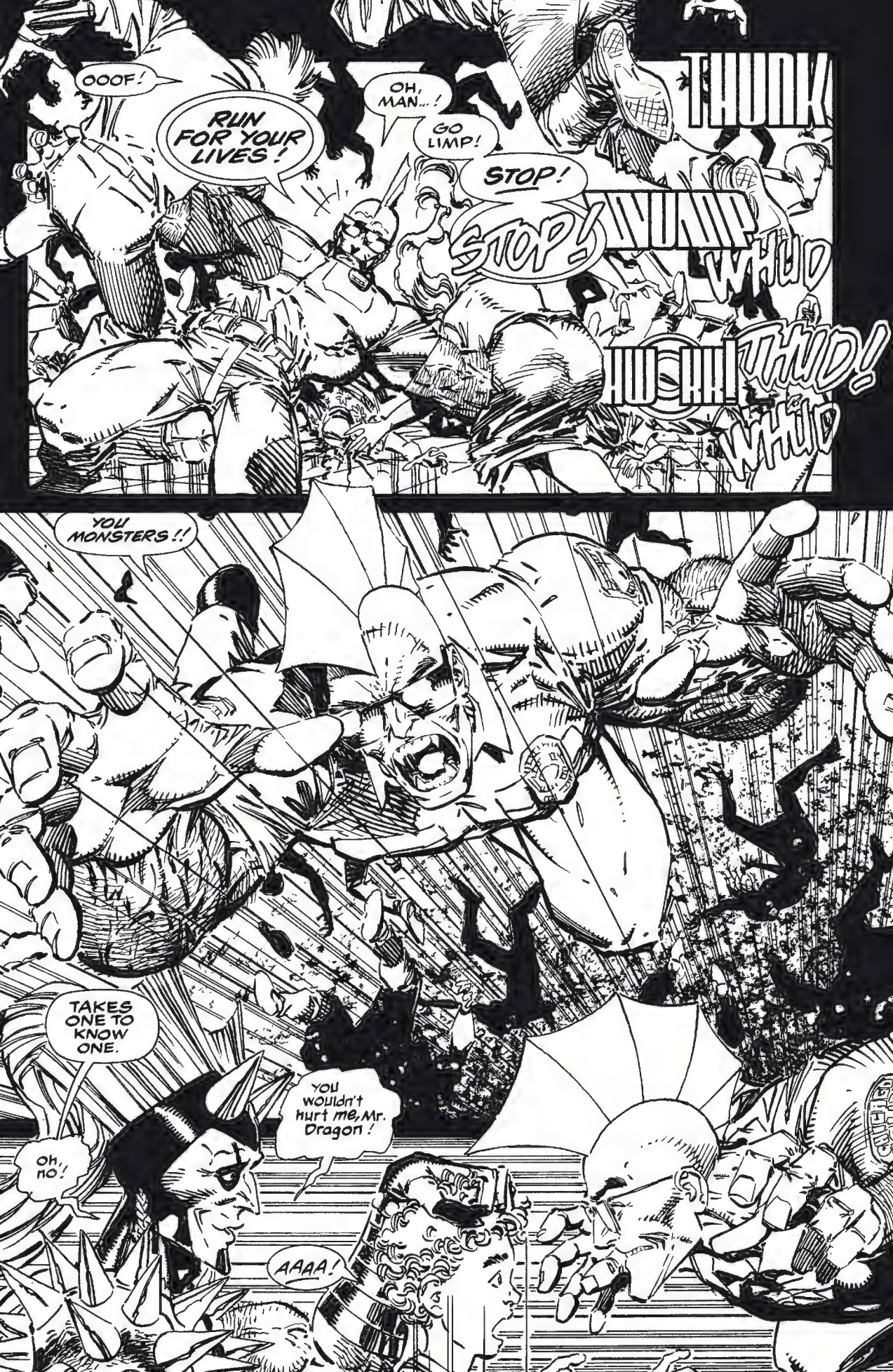
DO YOU THINK MAYBE WE...
I'VE GOT TO GO, DEBBIE.
IT'S AN EMERGENCY.

I'LL SEE YOU LATER.
UM... BYE.

THERE YOU ARE.
I SEEM TO BE SEEING A LOT OF YOU THESE DAYS.
THREE SUPERFREAKS HAVE TAKEN OVER THE MALL--THEY'VE GOT HOSTAGES AND THEY WANT TO TRADE THEM FOR YOU.
THE PRICE OF FAME, I SUPPOSE.
DAMN.
DEAL WITH IT, HOT SHOT.
GUYS LIKE THESE ARE THE REASON LT. DARLING WANTED YOU ON THE FORCE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
YEAH, YEAH.
AND YOU MIGHT AS WELL LOSE THE GUN.
THE BAD GUYS ARE BULLETPROOF.
YOU'LL ONLY HURT CIVILIANS WITH THAT THING.
THANKS FOR THE PEP TALK, MS. WILDE.
MY PLEASURE.

THIS IS ROSE FUA, REPORTING FOR WHAM TV. IT'S BEEN A LONG HARD DAY FOR SUPER-COP, OFFICER DRAGON OF THE CHICAGO POLICE.
EARLIER TODAY, HE BROUGHT IN THE ACCUSED CHILD DEVOURING, WEB SPINNING, MUTANT "SPIDER-MAN" WHO CALLS HIMSELF ARACHNID, AFTER AN AMAZING BATTLE.
NOW, THREE SUPERHUMANS ALLEGEDLY FROM CHICAGO'S NOTORIOUS VICIOUS CIRCLE HAVE TAKEN HOSTAGES IN A SHOPPING MALL AND HAVE DEMANDED THAT OFFICER DRAGON SURRENDER HIMSELF TO THEM IN EXCHANGE FOR THE HOSTAGES LIVES.
THE THREE HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS BASHER, HELLRAZOR AND THE "SHARK-MAN" KNOWN AS MAKO.
THIS NEW CRISIS IS UNFOLDING AS I SPEAK...
I'M HERE.
NOW, LET THEM GO.

AH.
THE COMEDIAN.
YER A FUNNY GUY, DRAGON MAN.
BUT LOOKS AIN'T EVERYTHING.
WE'VE GOT A CERTAIN STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE THAT WE'RE NOT ALL THAT ANXIOUS TO RELINQUISH.
BUT SINCE YOU ASKED SO NICELY...
DON'T...
TAKE THEM!
HA HA HA HA HA!


OOOF!
RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!
OH, MAN...!
GO LIMP!
STOP!
STOP!
THUNK
WHUD
THUD!
WHUD
YOU MONSTERS!!
TAKES ONE TO KNOW ONE.
YOU wouldn't hurt me, Mr. Dragon!
oh, no!
AAAA!

WHOK!
OH MY...!

STUPID FREAK!
KRABRAKK!
KILL HIM, BASHER!
CHOOMM!
WARAMM!!
KRAKKKKK!
UUNGHH!
GIVE IT UP, PUNK.

KAKATHROOM!
COUGH! COUGH!
NOT BAD.
BUT I'M STILL STANDING.
COUGH!
SO IT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH.
WHAT...?!

GREETINGS, GENTLEMEN. ALLOW ME TO REINTRODUCE MYSELF TO YOU.
THE NAME IS SUPER-PATRIOT.
I'M BACK.
OH CRAP!
ZAKKATZAKKATZAKKATZAKK
AND I'M PISSED.
THOK THOK
THOK THOK
ZAKKATZAK
STOP!
YOU'RE KILLING THEM!
MURDERING THEM IN COLD BLOOD!
DON'T!!

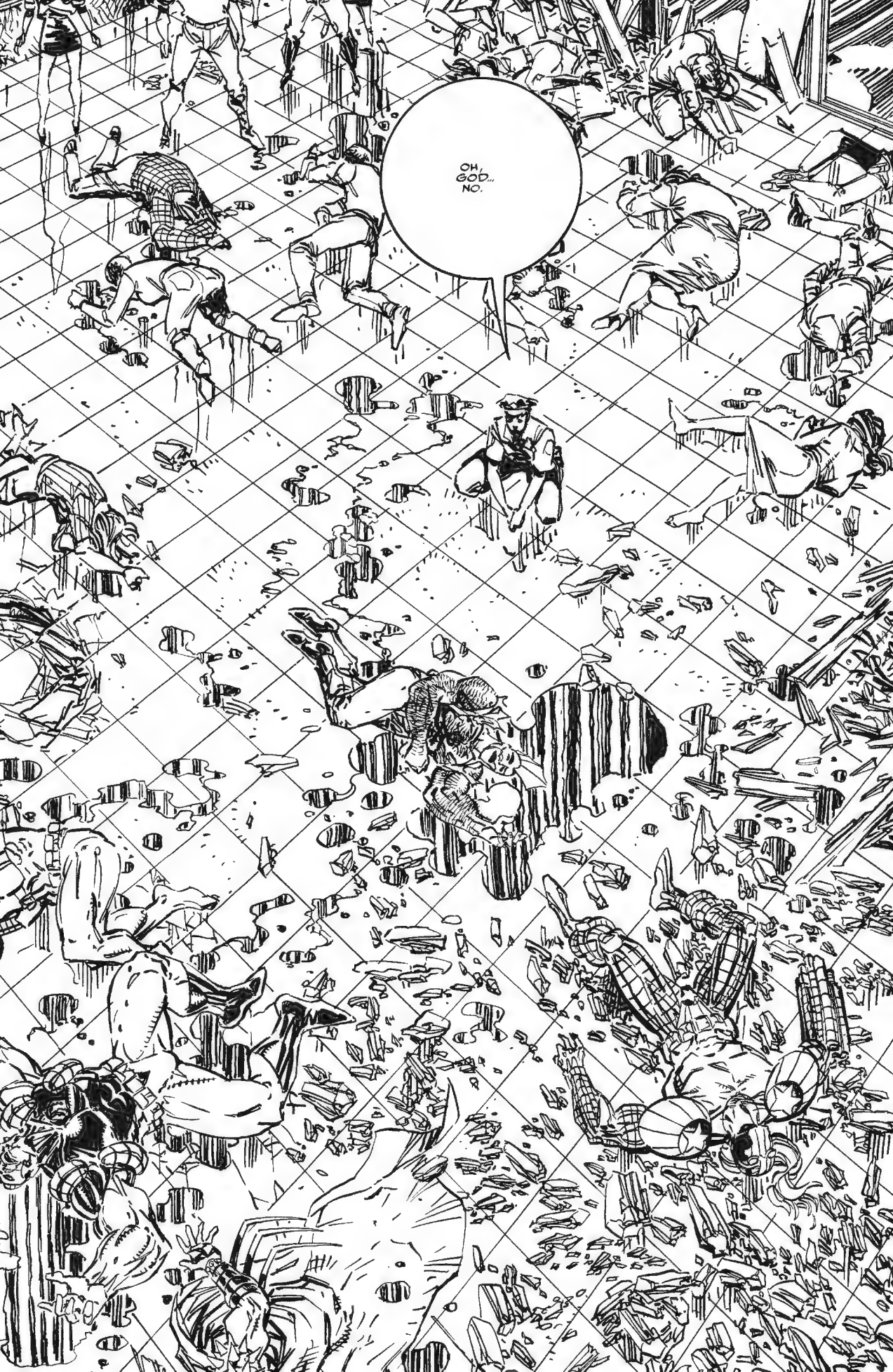
THEY KILLED ME FIRST.
KLIK KLAK WIRK
RACHET KUK KLAK WIRRD
ANY WAY YOU SLICE IT, FLAG FACE...
IT'S STILL MURDER.
WHO ARE YOU, LITTLE MAN?
NEW RECRUIT?
SMAK!
FRAK!
WHAK
RAK
BASH
POOR CAREER CHOICE.
WRONG MOVE.
SMAK
SMAK
SMAK
CLAK
CHAK
CLIK

KLIK
KLAK
DEAD WRONG!

FREEZE!
FREEZE, SUCKER!
NOT UNTIL JUSTICE HAS BEEN SERVED.
312
DON'T SHOOT, YOU IDIOT.
HE'S A POLICE OFFICER!
A POLICE...
A POLICE...
THAT'S RIGHT.
HE'S A COP.
NOW, FREEZE!
A POLICE...
A POLICE...
I'M SORRY I...
I CAN'T...
I'M SORRY I...
CAN'T.

WHAM!
CAN'T...
MY...
ASS.
WUMP!

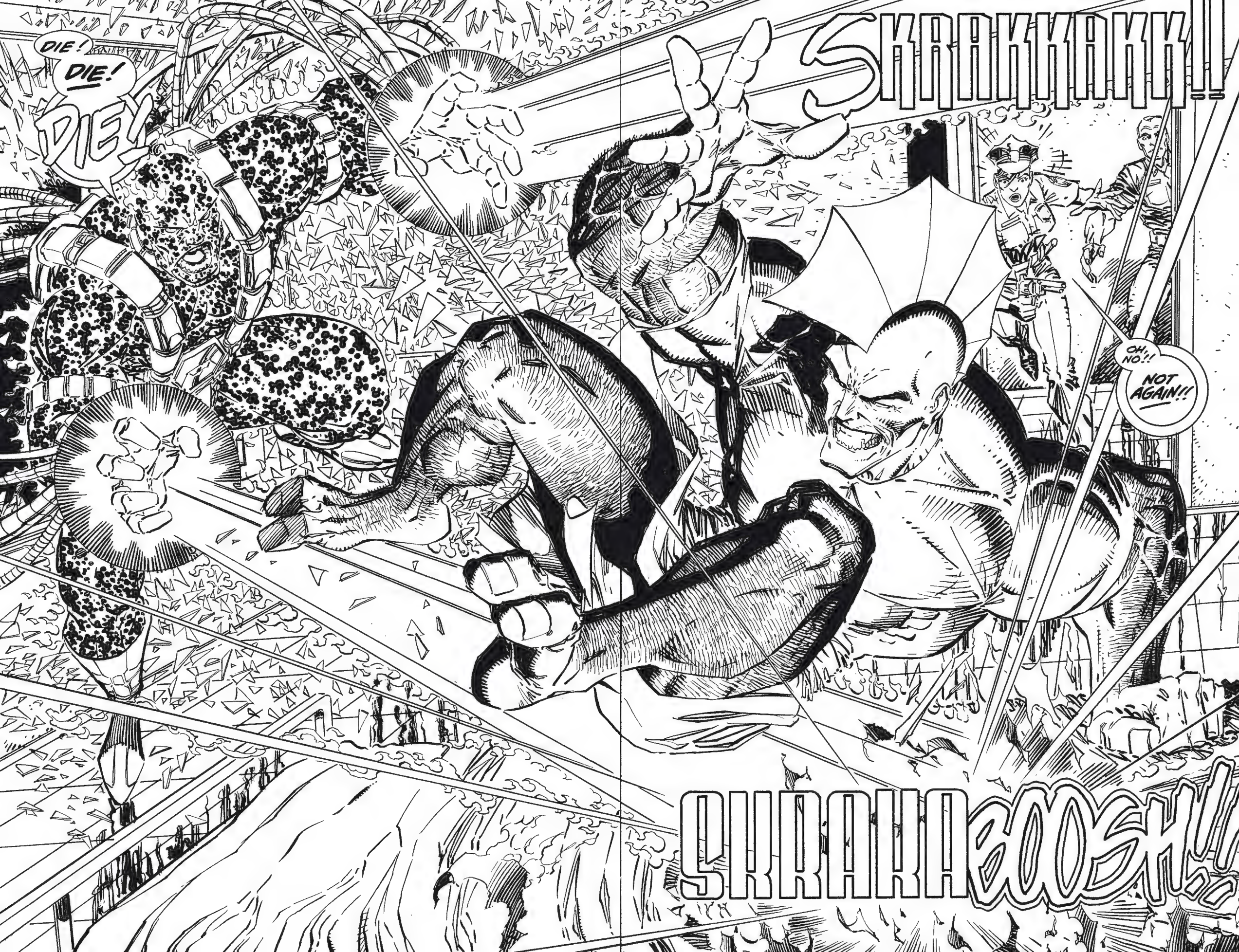
OH, MAN.
OH, MAN.
I'M BLEEDING.
SO MUCH... BLOOD.
OH, GOD...
OH...
DRAGON!


OH, GOD... NO.

OH MY GOD.
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK

STOP HIM!
YEAH, RIGHT...
OFFICER DOWN!
GET SOME AMBULANCES--! A LOT OF THEM!
HE'S ALIVE-- HE'S GOT TO BE!
HOLD ON, DRAGON, HOLD ON!
WRREEEEE

ROCK THIS TOWN
DIE AT THE HANDS OF INFERNO!

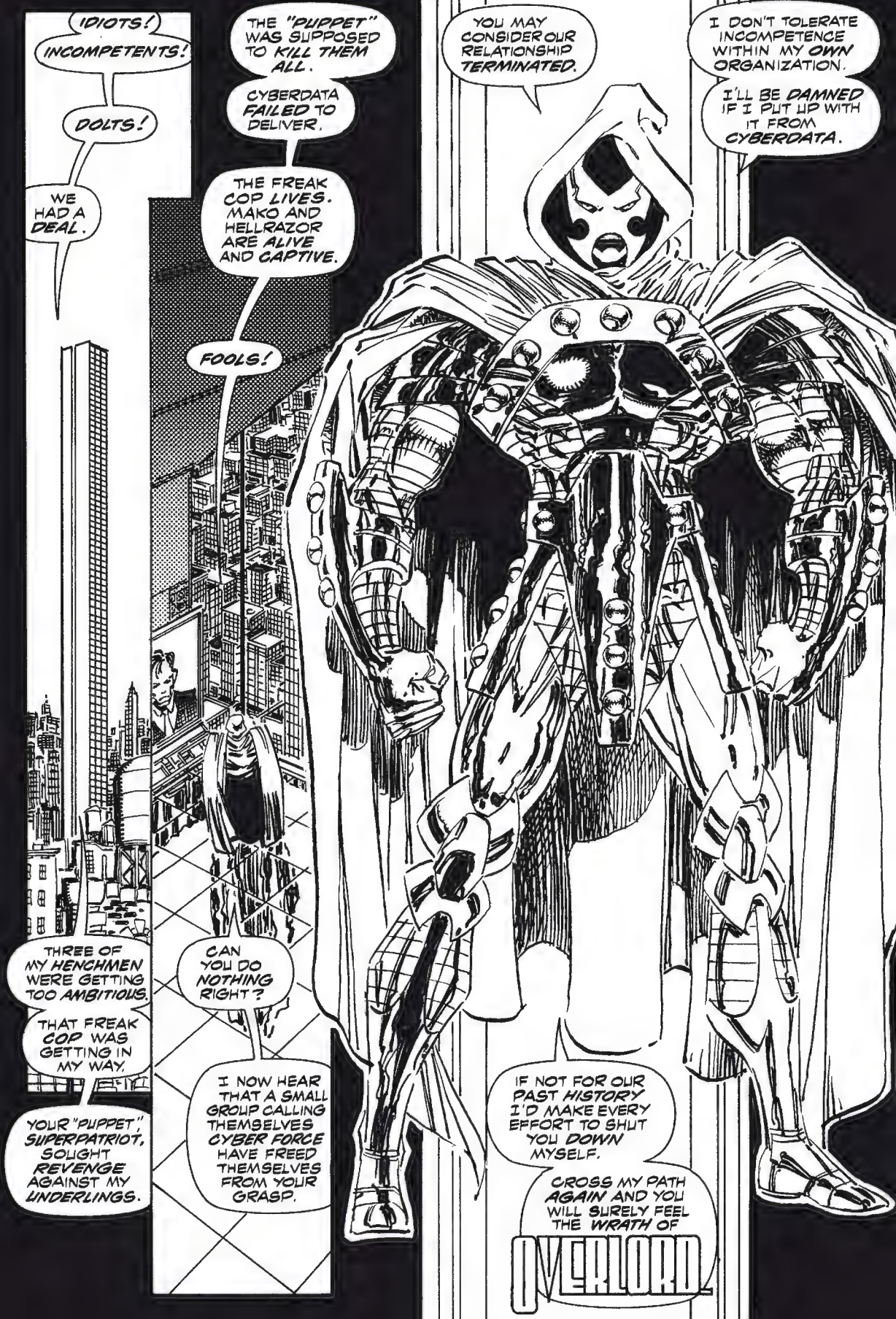

DIE!
DIE!
DIE!
SKRAKKAKK!!
OH, NO!!
NOT AGAIN!!
SKRAKABOOSH!!

CHOOM!

WELL... I SEE THAT YOU'RE UP AND ABOUT.

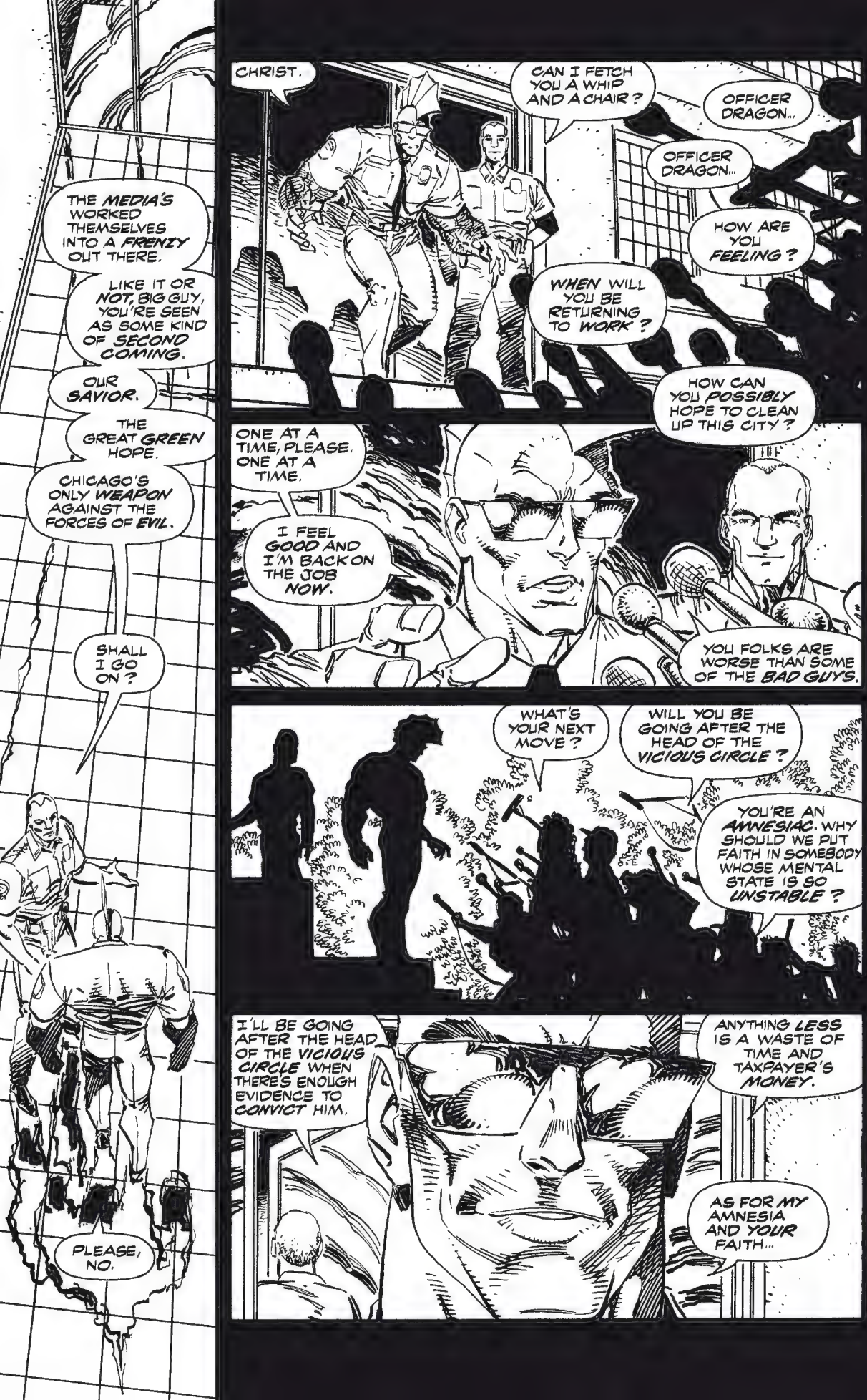
RIPKK
HE'S ALL YOURS, BOYS.
OUCH.
IS THAT GUY ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE VICIOUS CIRCLE GOONS?
I HAVE NO IDEA.
HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN OUT OF IT, FRANK?
NINE DAYS.
YOUR BODY SHUT ITSELF DOWN TO MAKE REPAIRS.
MAN, LOOK AT YOU.
ALEX, HERE, THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD.
YOU LOST A LOT OF BLOOD AFTER HELLRAZER CUT YOU OPEN.
BUT YOUR METABOLISM IS INCREDIBLE.
THE GASHES ON YOUR HEAD HEALED IN A DAY.
AND NOW YOU'RE UP AND FIGHTING.
AMAZING.
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BAD GUYS?
BASHER HAD A HOLE BLOWN THROUGH HIS HEAD THE SIZE OF A SOFTBALL.
MAKO AND HELLRAZOR ARE ALIVE, INCARCERATED AND IN INTENSIVE CARE.
THEY SHOULD MAKE IT.
AS FOR SUPERPATRIOT...
...HE CRAWLED TO HIS FEET AND TOOK OFF.
WEIRDEST THING I'VE EVER SEEN.
IT WAS LIKE HE WAS UNDER REMOTE CONTROL OR SOMETHING.
I DON'T THINK HE WAS EVEN CONSCIOUS.

HAVING YOU OUT OF ACTION REALLY HITS HOME HOW MUCH WE NEED YOU.
THE MORE MANIACAL SUPER-FREAKS HAVE TAKEN IT UPON THEMSELVES TO REALLY CUT LOOSE.
VIGILANTE DO-GOODERS LIKE THAT "STAR" CHARACTER AND US NORMAL COPS...
...WELL, WE JUST DON'T HAVE A PRAYER WHEN IT COMES TO DEALING WITH A FREAK THAT HAS ANY REAL FIREPOWER.
WE'VE LOST SOME MEN--
IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK, DRAGON.
OH, UH... SKULLFACE, ONE OF THE FREAKS WHO WHACKED FRED, IS FREE. NOT ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO CONNECT HIM TO BLOWING UP FRED'S WAREHOUSE.
THE OTHER FREAK, HARDWARE, IS STILL BEING HELD, AS HE ACTUALLY THREATENED YOU.
WE MANAGED TO HOLD ON TO HIM AT LEAST.
I THINK SOMEBODY GOT TO THE JUDGE.
THE VICIOUS CIRCLE IS EVERY-WHERE.
CHICAGO POLICE DEPT.
YOU SCARED THE HELL OUT OF ME, YOU BIG JERK.
WHY, MS. WILDE...
... I NEVER KNEW YOU CARED.


IDIOTS!
INCOMPETENTS!
DOLTS!
WE HAD A DEAL.
THE "PUPPET" WAS SUPPOSED TO KILL THEM ALL.
CYBERDATA FAILED TO DELIVER.
THE FREAK COP LIVES. MAKO AND HELLRAZOR ARE ALIVE AND CAPTIVE.
FOOLS!
YOU MAY CONSIDER OUR RELATIONSHIP TERMINATED.
I DON'T TOLERATE INCOMPETENCE WITHIN MY OWN ORGANIZATION.
I'LL BE DAMNED IF I PUT UP WITH IT FROM CYBERDATA.
THREE OF MY HENCHMEN WERE GETTING TOO AMBITIOUS.
THAT FREAK COP WAS GETTING IN MY WAY.
YOUR "PUPPET" SUPERPATRIOT, SOUGHT REVENGE AGAINST MY UNDERLINGS.
CAN YOU DO NOTHING RIGHT?
I NOW HEAR THAT A SMALL GROUP CALLING THEMSELVES CYBER FORCE HAVE FREED THEMSELVES FROM YOUR GRASP.
IF NOT FOR OUR PAST HISTORY I'D MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SHUT YOU DOWN MYSELF.
CROSS MY PATH AGAIN AND YOU WILL SURELY FEEL THE WRATH OF
OVERLORD.

HELLO AGAIN, OFFICER DRAGON.
AMANDA MILLS.
HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?
I'M A PRETTY GIRL.
WE GO WHERE WE PLEASE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
YOU SAVED MY LIFE.
I WAS SCARED.
FRIGHTENED.
I NEVER GOT A CHANCE TO THANK YOU.
NOT REALLY.
THERE MUST BE...
SOME WAY THAT I CAN REPAY YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID.
MISTER DRAGON CAN I SPEAK WITH--
OOP!
I HOPE I'M NOT INTER-RUPTING ANYTHING...!

THAT'S OKAY, NURSE STEVENS, MS. MILLS WAS JUST LEAVING.
I WAS?
Mmmm Hmmm.
I'LL LET YOU KNOW IF I THINK OF ANY WAY YOU CAN REPAY ME.
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?
HOSTAGE NEGOTIATIONS.
WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, SWEETHEART?
YOU REALLY SCARED ME.
I'M A SCARY GUY.
I MEAN REALLY.
I...
I WAS HERE WHEN MIGHTY MAN DIED.
HE WAS JUST MISTER BERMAN THEN, OF COURSE, BUT I KNEW WHO HE BECAME.
IT JUST ALL SEEMED SO HOPELESS.
THOSE EVIL MEN CUT HIM UP AND HE WAS JUST LYING THERE, SO HELPLESS... I HELD HIS HAND...
...AND HE...
WELL, I DON'T THINK I COULD STAND GOING THROUGH THAT AGAIN.
IT ALL CAME BACK TO ME THE NIGHT THEY BROUGHT YOU IN...
THERE, THERE.
IT'LL BE OKAY.


THE MEDIA'S WORKED THEMSELVES INTO A FRENZY OUT THERE.
LIKE IT OR NOT, BIG GUY, YOU'RE SEEN AS SOME KIND OF SECOND COMING.
OUR SAVIOR.
THE GREAT GREEN HOPE.
CHICAGO'S ONLY WEAPON AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL.
SHALL I GO ON?
PLEASE, NO.
CHRIST.
CAN I FETCH YOU A WHIP AND A CHAIR?
OFFICER DRAGON...
OFFICER DRAGON...
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
WHEN WILL YOU BE RETURNING TO WORK?
HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY HOPE TO CLEAN UP THIS CITY?
ONE AT A TIME, PLEASE. ONE AT A TIME.
I FEEL GOOD AND I'M BACK ON THE JOB NOW.
YOU FOLKS ARE WORSE THAN SOME OF THE BAD GUYS.
WHAT'S YOUR NEXT MOVE?
WILL YOU BE GOING AFTER THE HEAD OF THE VICIOUS CIRCLE?
YOU'RE AN AMNESIAC. WHY SHOULD WE PUT FAITH IN SOMEBODY WHOSE MENTAL STATE IS SO UNSTABLE?
I'LL BE GOING AFTER THE HEAD OF THE VICIOUS CIRCLE WHEN THERE'S ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO CONVICT HIM.
ANYTHING LESS IS A WASTE OF TIME AND TAXPAYER'S MONEY.
AS FOR MY AMNESIA AND YOUR FAITH...

...I'M DEALING WITH IT.
I DON'T LET IT GET IN THE WAY OF MY WORK.
THAT'S ALL I CAN REALLY DO.
IF PEOPLE DON'T HAVE FAITH IN ME BECAUSE OF THAT, THAT'S THEIR PREROGATIVE.
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...
ARE YOU UNCOMFORTABLE TALKING ABOUT YOUR "CONDITION?"
I'VE SAID ALL I CARE TO. PARDON ME.
WHAT ABOUT THE RUMOR THAT YOU DON'T REALLY HAVE AMNESIA?
ARE YOU TRYING TO HIDE SOMETHING?
WERE YOU A CRIMINAL?
A THIEF?
MURDERER?
CHILD MOLESTER?
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO HIDE?
NOTHING!
AND DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.
NOW, EXCUSE ME -- GOOD BYE.
OFFICER DRAGON, OFFICER DRAGON, WAIT!
GET LOST.
I'D LIKE TO APOLOGIZE FOR MY INCONSIDERATE COLLEAGUES.
SAVE IT.
NO.
CAN I JUST ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS?
PLEASE...?

HA! I KNEW I'D FIND YOU!
LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN TAKE ON
BEDROCK!
DANG! YOU LOOK A LOT BIGGER ON TV, I THOUGHT THIS'D BE A GOOD FIGHT. BUT YOU'RE A LITTLE DUDE--WHAT A RIP!
WHAM!
OH MY GOD!

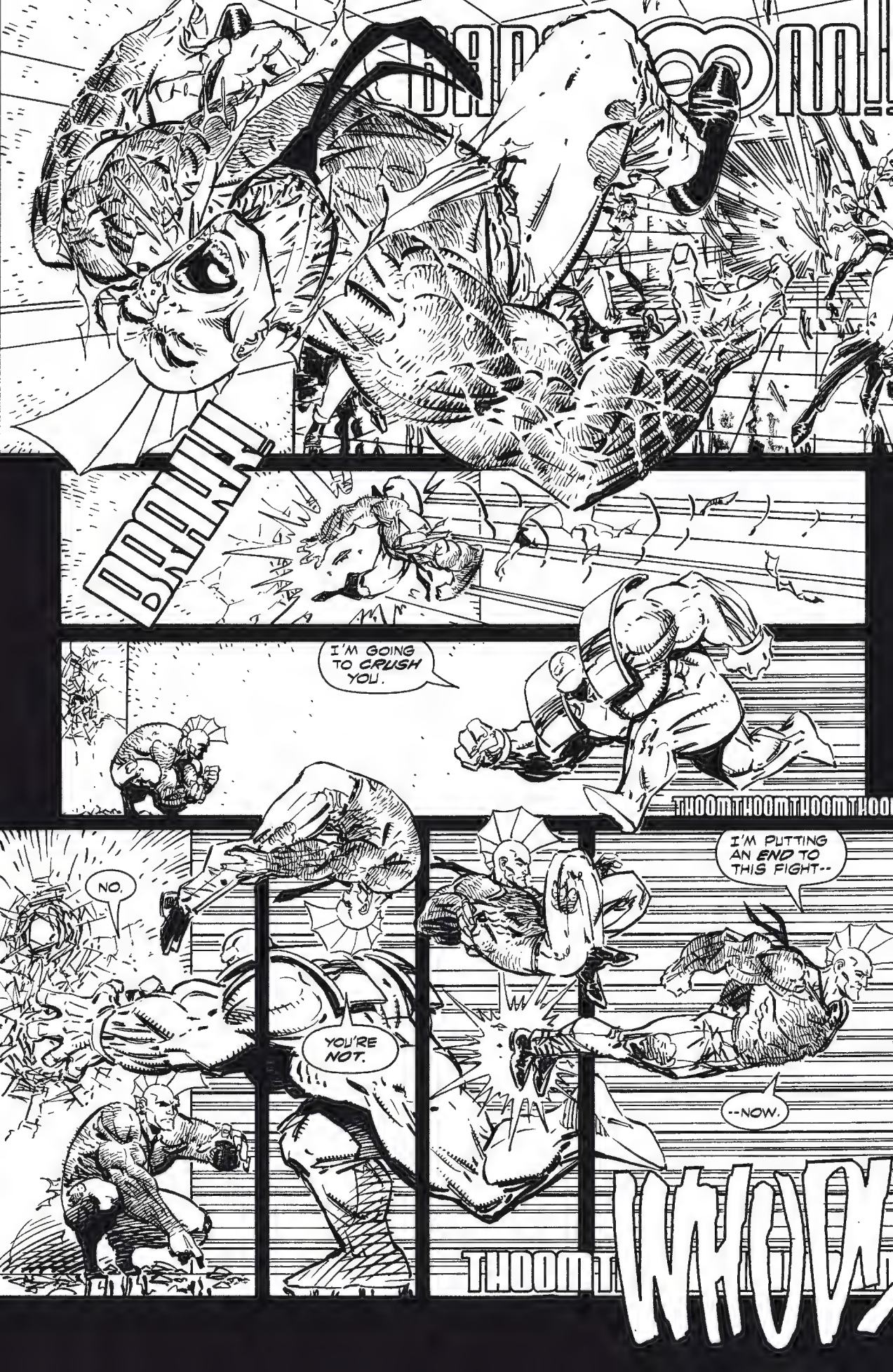
HA! HA! LOOK AT THAT FIN ON YOUR HEAD! TOO COOL!
SO WHAT ARE YOU, AN ALIEN OR SOMETHING? WHAT?
YOU'VE GOT TO BE THE WEIRDEST LOOKING POLICE OFFICER I'VE EVER SEEN!
GET UP, LEMME SEE WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF!
ALLOW ME TO DEMONSTRATE, PUNK.
WHUMP!

BAM!
CRUNCH
WUDD!
OOOOF!
YEEAUGH!

BRRETHROOM!!!
MISTER, YOU'RE IN BIG TROUBLE!
YIKES!
YEAH, RIGHT.
CHUDD!
I NEVER CARED MUCH FOR YOU SHOW OFF, SPANDEXED PRETTYBOYS IN THE FIRST PLACE.
RUNNN!!!

REPLACING ALTRUISTIC GOOD DEEDS WITH COMMERCIALIZED GRAND-STANDING AND EXCESSIVE MERCHANDISING TURNS MY STOMACH.
WUOOD
BEATING THE CRAP OUT OF YOU WILL BE MY PLEASURE.
HOOK!
GIMME A BREAK.
SMAK!
WE'VE SAVED THE WORLD A GA-ZILLION TIMES.
AND OUR TOY LINE IS RADICAL!
YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS 'CAUSE NOBODY WANTS TO MASS MARKET YOUR STUPID FIN-HEADED LIKENESS.
WHAK!
ME AND THE REST OF YOUNGBLOOD ARE ROLE MODELS--
KIDS TOTALLY DIG US--
AND WE'RE MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE IN!
POW
STEALING A COAT AND HAT-- HELL, I'VE BECOME A TWO BIT THIEF HIDING MYSELF FROM THE WORLD.
BECOMING THE SPAWN HAS RUINED MY LIFE--AND MY DEATH.
ROB, LOOK! IT'S THAT NEW SUPER-HERO!
RIGHT ON, MAN! LET'S CHECK HIM OUT!
COOL! I DIDN'T THINK HE REALLY EXISTED!
I SAW HIM FIRST!
HOW?
H-HOW DID YOU KNOW?

HEY MISTER! WATCH OUT!
AWW COOL, MAN! LOOK AT HIM, ERIK!
UH?
IT'S THAT DRAGON DUDE FROM CHICAGO!
I TOLD YOU HE WAS RAD!
HE'S BETTER THAN THOSE YOUNGBLOOD! I BET HE COULD TAKE BEDROCK EASY.
NOT!
BEDROCK'S WAY TOUGH AIN'T NO ONE CAN TOUCH HIM
GREAT RO
GLORY SEEKER.
YEAH,
I DO MY BEST TO AVOID SUCH ATTENTION
I'LL HAVE NONE OF IT.
BUT NOT A BLOOD.
I'M GOING TO RIP YOU IN HALF!
NOT IN THIS LIFETIME, ROCKY.


BAM!
BAM!!!
I'M GOING TO CRUSH YOU.
THOOM THOOM THOOM THOOM
NO.
YOU'RE NOT.
I'M PUTTING AN END TO THIS FIGHT--
--NOW.
THOOM
WHOW

KARASHH!
HOPE YOU CAN SWIM, PUNK.
RATS.
SPLASH!
POW!

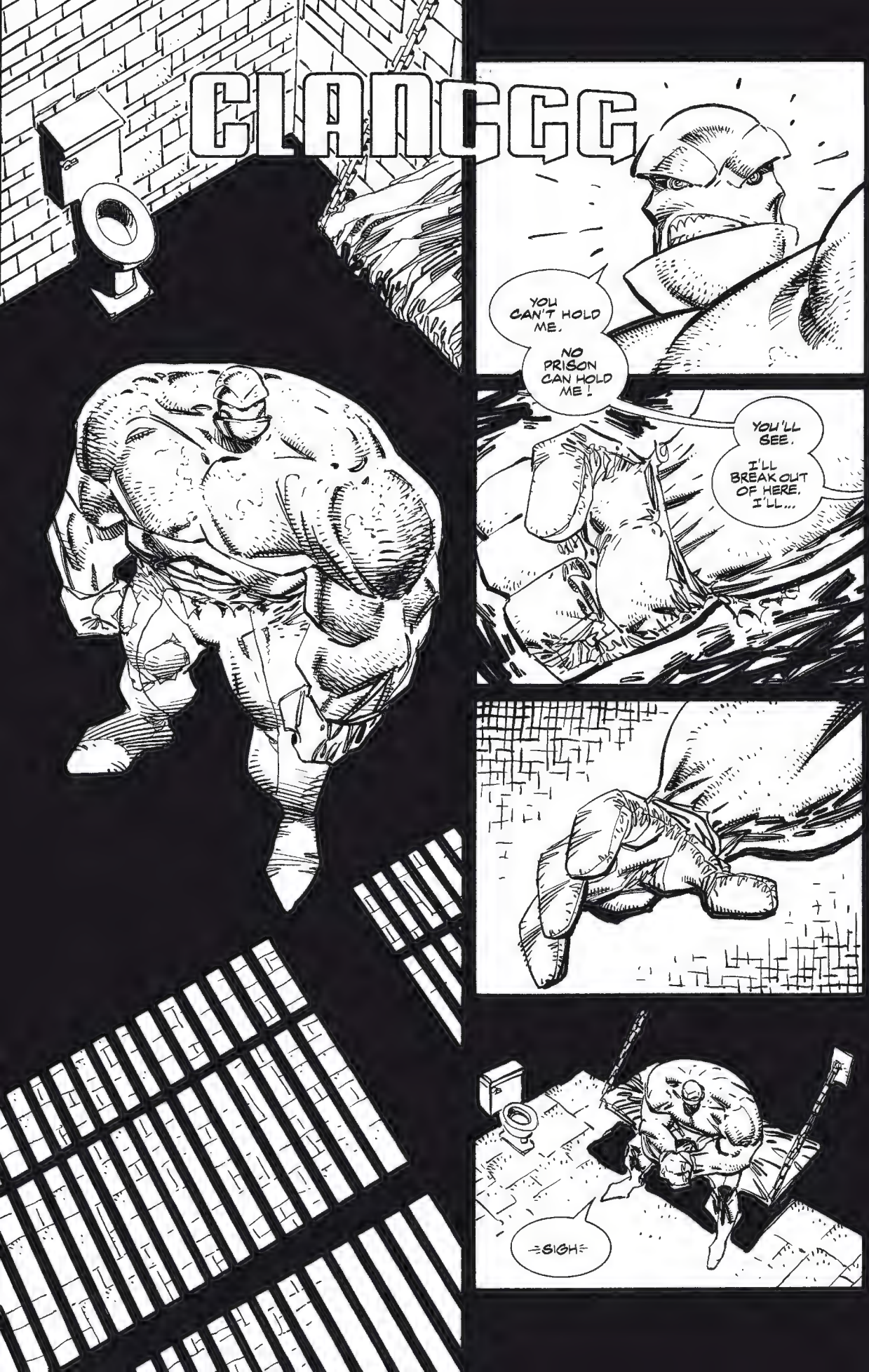
DRUBB
WURUMBB!
WUDD!
WUDD!
WUDD!

SPLABOOSH!
THAT DOES IT.
I HAVE HAD ENOUGH.
KRAHAB
BASH CRASH WHAM WHAR POW

--A MAN WITHOUT A PAST, WITHOUT A MEMORY, IS THE ONLY THING THAT STANDS BETWEEN THE CITY OF CHICAGO AND UTTER CHAOS.
CRASH
RODNEY...
YOU'RE ALIVE!
OKAY, OKAY.
THAT'S ENOUGH, ALL RIGHT?
STOP, OKAY?
KNOCK IT OFF, YOU DORK.
GEEZ!
OKAY, I STOPPED.
NOW, WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?
TAKE IT EASY, MAN.
I JUST WANTED TO SEE IF YOU WERE TOUGH ENOUGH TO JOIN YOUNGBLOOD.

WHAM!

THAT'S THE STUPIDEST THING I'VE EVER HEARD!
IT HAPPENS IN MARVEL COMICS ALL THE TIME!
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?!? YOU PICKED A FIGHT WITH ME AND CAUSED THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN PROPERTY DAMAGE JUST TO SEE IF I WAS TOUGH ENOUGH TO GO TO YOUR SILLY PAJAMA PARTY?
GET A CLUE!
I'M SORRY.
CAN I GO NOW?
HELL, NO.
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST.


CLANCGG
YOU CAN'T HOLD ME.
NO PRISON CAN HOLD ME!
YOU'LL SEE.
I'LL BREAK OUT OF HERE. I'LL...
=SIGH=

DEBBIE...?
UH...
WHO...?
DRAGON.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
MY...UM... MOM LOCKED ME OUT.
CAN I SPEND THE NIGHT--UH--
SLEEP ON YOUR COUCH?
LET ME TALK TO YOUR MOTHER.
THIS ISN'T RIGHT.
DO YOU HAVE TO?
CAN'T YOU TALK TO HER TOMORROW?
PLEASE?
PLEASE?!?
OKAY, OKAY.
TH...THANK YOU.
CLICK.

THANKS FOR GETTING ME OUT OF JAIL, GUYS.
THAT DRAGON DUDE IS A REAL JERK.
FIXING THE DAMAGE IS GOING TO SET YOU BACK A FEW BUCKS, BEDROCK.
POLICE
SHAFT IS RIGHT.
YOU SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL.
RING RING
YOU MUST HAVE WANTED THE GREEN MAN ON THE FORCE PRETTY BAD, FRANKY, THAT YOU'D SELL OUT YOUR OWN COUSIN.
WHA...
WHO IS THIS ?!?
SEEMS THAT TIP ABOUT YOUR COUSIN FRED'S WAREHOUSE BEING RIPE FOR PLUCKING CAME FROM YOU.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
YES, YOU DO. GREEN MAN DIDN'T WANT TO BE A COP, SO YOU MADE A PHONE CALL.
BAD GUYS THREATEN FRED, GREEN MAN SENT THEM TO JAIL. WAREHOUSE EXPLODED.
FREDDIE'S DEAD.
DRAGON'S A COP.
HAPPY ENDING, EH, FRANKY?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?

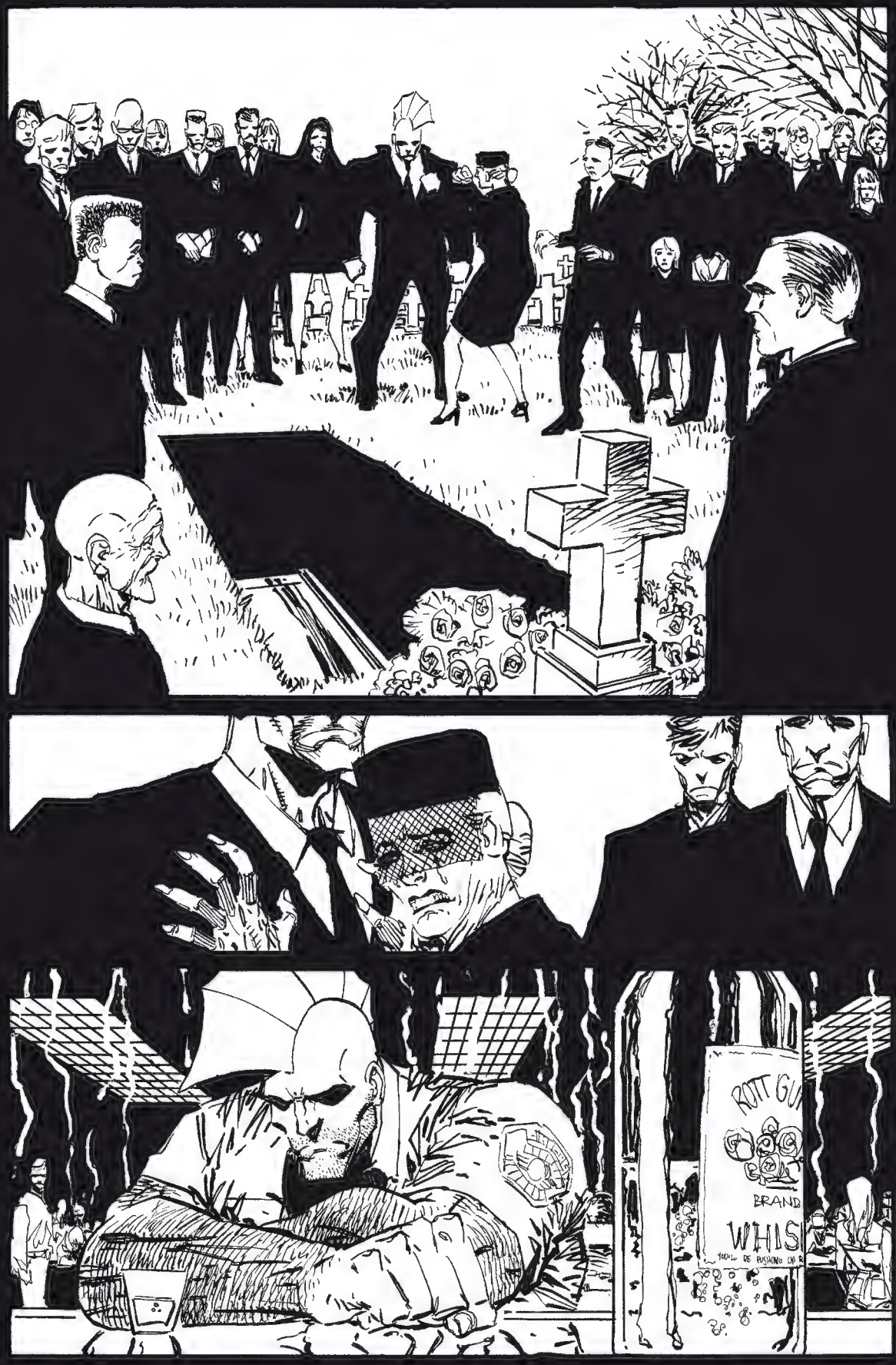
SLEEP WELL, FRANKY.
SLEEP WELL.
EXCELLENT, SKULLFACE.
LT. FRANK DARLING IS OURS.
THE GREEN MAN IS HISTORY.
"IT BEGINS."

GOOD MORNING, HONEY!
HAVE I TOLD YOU LATELY HOW CRAZY I AM ABOUT YOU?
GIVE ME A HUG, YOU BIG, GORGEOUS MAN!
CAREFUL, DEBBIE!

I'M TRYING TO SHAVE, IN CASE YOU HADN'T NOTICED.
WHY DO YOU WANT TO DO THAT, WHEN WE COULD...
WHOOP!
HEY!
PUT ME DOWN! PUT ME DOWN! I'LL BE GOOD.
HA HA HA HA HA
MMMM...WHY DON'T YOU GROW A MOUSTACHE...
YOU'D LOOK LIKE AN INCREDIBLE HUNK.
I THINK YOU'RE GETTING ME CONFUSED WITH SOMEBODY ELSE.
NOW, SCAT!
HA HA!
SLAP!
HA! YOU READ GQ!!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!
I CAN'T BELIEVE...
THE MANY FACES OF PETER KLAPTIN

WHY DON'T YOU GO WATCH TV OR SOMETHING?
I THINK THERE ARE SOME CARTOONS ON.
SORRY.
POOP.
FLICK FLICK
DING DONG
GET THAT, WOULD YOU?
BUT WHAT IF IT'S MY MOM?!
WE'LL DEAL WITH IT.
SHE'S BOUND TO FIND OUT SOONER OR LATER.
HELLO?

BLAM!
THUD
JESUS,
WHAT...?
STOP!
BLAM!
OH
GOD
NO.


BRAND

SKRA-

ZZAKKAKK!

UP YOURS, PIG!

WE DO AS OUR RE-CREATOR DID-- *DESTROY* OUR SURROUNDINGS IN THE NAME OF *CHANGE!* WE DON'T CARE *WHO* WE HURT!

WE ARE BUT A *FEW* OF THE MANY "*PROJECTS*" *BEGUN* AND *ABANDONED* BY THE ALMIGHTY CREATIVE FORCE OF *JOHNNY REDBEARD.*

HE GIFTED *MANY* OF US WITH POORLY CONCEIVED AND *USELESS* POWERS. MY NEW POWERS KEEP MY CLOTHES FOREVER CLEAN BUT I REPEL *SOAP* AS WELL AS DIRT. ULTIMATELY MY *STENCH* DROVE HIM AWAY.

I PERFORMED FOR *PEOPLE FROM ANOTHER REALM* THAT ONLY I COULD SEE. MY DIRECTIONLESS NON-ADVENTURES, PETTY JABS, LAME JOKES AND PRAT FALLS ULTIMATELY *BORED* AND DROVE AWAY *ALL* WHO KNEW ME.

I WAS STRIPPED OF MY *FLYING ABILITY* AFTER LOOTING MY UNDERSEA KINGDOM TO BUILD A GIANT CORPORATION THAT JOHNNY AND I COULDN'T PROPERLY RUN. HE GAVE ME *AMNESIA* AND RAN FOR THE HILLS.

OUR *WEAKENED CONDITION* WAS THE RESULT OF HIS SENSELESS REVAMPING.

TO SURVIVE, WE BANDED TOGETHER AS...

Johnny Redbeard's

Nixed Men!

A PATHETIC EXISTENCE IS NO EXCUSE FOR COLD-BLOODED MURDER!
CAN THE SOB STORIES!
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
FALL BACK, NIXED MEN, HE'S TOO MUCH FOR US TO HANDLE!

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

WE NEED TO TALK.

YEAH.

LOOK, FRANK, I'VE BEEN UNDER A LOT OF *STRESS* LATELY.

THIS JOB IS RUNNING ME *RAGGED*. GETTING SENT ALL OVER THE COUNTRY TO DEAL WITH OTHER PEOPLES' *PROBLEMS* ISN'T MAKING IT ANY *EASIER*.

DEBBIE HARRIS GETTING BLOWN AWAY IN MY APARTMENT WAS A REAL *SHOCK*--PEOPLE CLOSE TO ME ARE SO-- *VULNERABLE*. I CAN'T DO *EVERYTHING*, BE *EVERYWHERE*, PROTECT *EVERYBODY*--ALL AT ONCE. WHO'S *NEXT*, FRANK ?

THE *LAWSUITS* FILED AGAINST ME AND THE CITY BY THOSE CAUGHT IN THE *CROSSFIRE* DON'T HELP. I KNOW THEY DON'T HAVE MUCH *MERIT*--BUT THEY'RE ANOTHER VOTE OF *NO CONFIDENCE* THAT I JUST *DON'T NEED* RIGHT NOW.

I CAN'T GET A BREATH IN BETWEEN *BATTLES*. THE JOB IS *TOO* BIG.

I DON'T SEEM TO BE GETTING *ANYWHERE*.

I'M RUNNING AROUND LIKE A *CHICKEN* WITH HIS *HEAD CUT OFF* WHILE THE *VICIOUS CIRCLE* TIGHTENS THEIR *STRANGLE HOLD* ON THE CITY.

I'M TAKING *NOTHING* BUT THE *WRONG* TURNS TRYING TO CATCH UP WITH THEM.

I'M *TIRED*, FRANK.

TIRED OF *PAPERWORK*.

OF *LAWSUITS*.

OF *FIGHTING*.

AND *DEATH*.

TRIAL BY FIRE JOSH EICHORN

TRIAL BY FIRE JOSH EICHORN

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?
I... DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU.
CHICAGO NEEDS YOU.
I NEED YOU.
I NEED HELP.
I'M DOING ALL I CAN.
IT'S NOT ENOUGH.
NOT NEARLY.
WE'RE LOSING THE BATTLE.
I'M LOSING IT.
I'M LOSING IT, FRANK.

...LOSING IT.

"NO TIME TO EXPLAIN?"
I THINK YOU OWE ME AT LEAST THAT!
I DIDN'T ASK FOR THIS--
I WAS ALL THROUGH EXTRADITING MY PRISONER TO SACRAMENTO.
I'D HAVE BEEN PERFECTLY HAPPY TO HEAD HOME TO CHICAGO BUT YOU COULDN'T LET ME DO THAT!
YOU HAD TO PICK A FIGHT!
WELL, I HOPE YOU'RE HAPPY!
WILDSTAR--
MICHAEL!
DRAGON--DON'T!
LISTEN FELLOW--I WANT SOME ANSWERS...

BA-BOOM!
MICKY!
IT CAN'T END LIKE THIS--
NOT NOW--
NOT BEFORE IT REALLY BEGINS...
THIS IS GETTING TOO WEIRD.
THE MILITARY IS IN FULL FORCE--PEOPLE ARE SHOOTING AT EACH OTHER--AND A COUPLE OF BOZOS ARE RUNNING AROUND IN THEIR UNDERWEAR ACTING CRAZY.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON HERE.
BUT I DO KNOW ONE THING--THAT KID IS HURT AND HE NEERS MEDICAL ATTENTION.
THIS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH!
NOW, BACK OFF, PAL, THE KID NEERS HELP!
YES...
...I KNOW.

KA-BOOM!
"OOOOHH."
WHAT THE HELL JUST HAPPENED?!
I'M SORRY, DRAGON. BUT YOU DON'T HAVE THE SECURITY CLEARANCE TO BE BRIEFED ON ANY OF THIS.
YOU MAKE IT SEEM LIKE I MIGHT ACTUALLY WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN YOUR TOP SECRET LITTLE FREE FOR ALL -- I COULDN'T CARE LESS -- I'VE GOT TROUBLES AT HOME!
GO AHEAD... PLAY WAR WITH SOMEONE ELSE...
SEE IF I CARE.
TYPICAL MILITARY JERKS...
IF I MISS MY FLIGHT...

YEAH, ME AN' MY FRIEN'S USED TO RUN AROUND TH' KITCHEN WITH TOWELS TIED AROUND OUR NECKS. DROVE MY MOTHER CRAZY.
'COURSE SHE GOT HER REVENGE --TOSSED OUT MY WHOLE COMIC BOOK COLLECTION... THEY'D BE WORTH BIG BUCKS TOO! I HAD SOME GOOD ONES...
YER SCARIN' TH' BABY.
WAAAH! WAAAAAH!
CAN I GET YOU ANYTHING?
NO SMOKIN'
ANYTHING AT ALL?
WHOA! CHECK IT OUT!
FRANK.
WELCOME HOME, DRAGON...
I'VE GOT A LIVE ONE FOR YOU.
TELL ME ABOUT IT.

END OF THE LINE, CREEP.
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST.
BUTCHER'S CALLED THE SHREW.
HE'S BEEN RIPPING PEOPLE TO SHREDS FOR NO GOOD REASON.
SOMETIMES THIS JOB REALLY SUCKS.

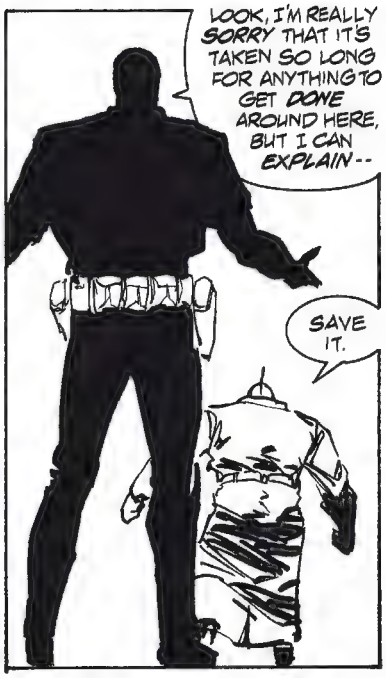
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
SLASH!!
SO MUCH FOR THE SUBTLE APPROACH.

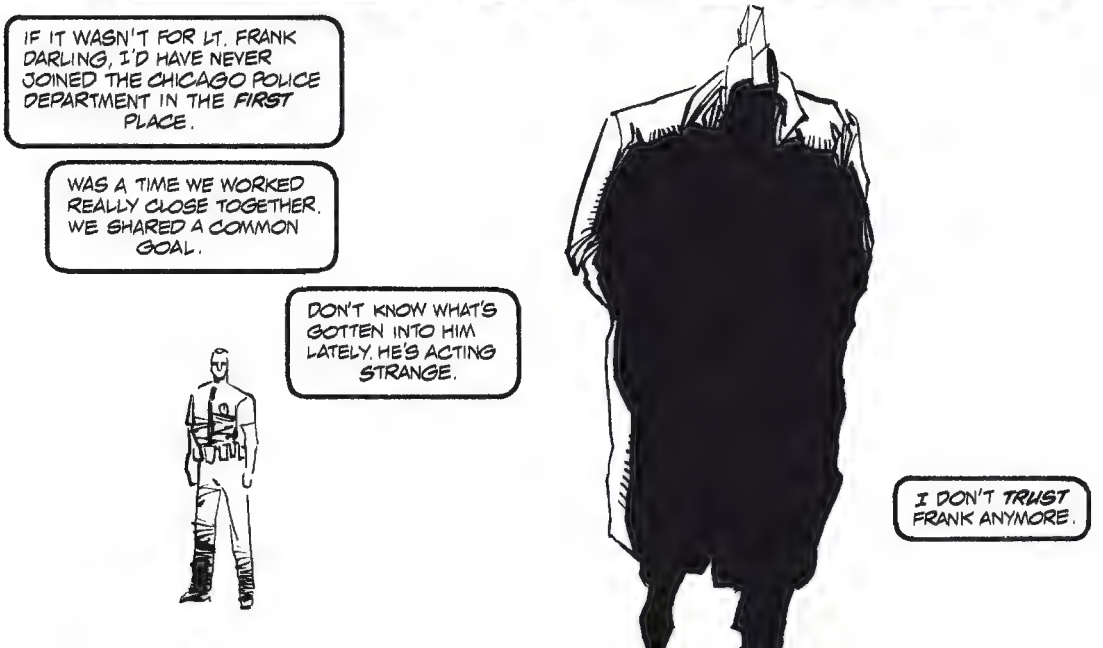
KAKK!!
SMAKK!
AH, YOU FELT THAT ONE.
GOOD.
YOU WANT MORE?
KRUMP!
HHRRAKKK!
WHUOD
STUPID.

YOU LOOK AWFUL -- YOU SHOULDN'T PUSH YOURSELF SO HARD.
YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE YOURSELF A HEART ATTACK.

TELL THAT TO THEIR VICTIM'S WIDOWS, FRANK.
IN CASE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN, I'M STILL THE ONLY COP ON THIS BLOODY POLICE FORCE WITH THE POWER TO DEAL WITH THESE BASTARDS.

THAT'S GOING TO CHANGE... I'VE TALKED TO THE CHIEF ABOUT GETTING SOME ADDITIONAL SUPER-POWERED TYPES ON THE FORCE AND BELIEVE ME, I'M DOING ALL I CAN TO MAKE SURE THAT IT--
YEAH, YEAH.

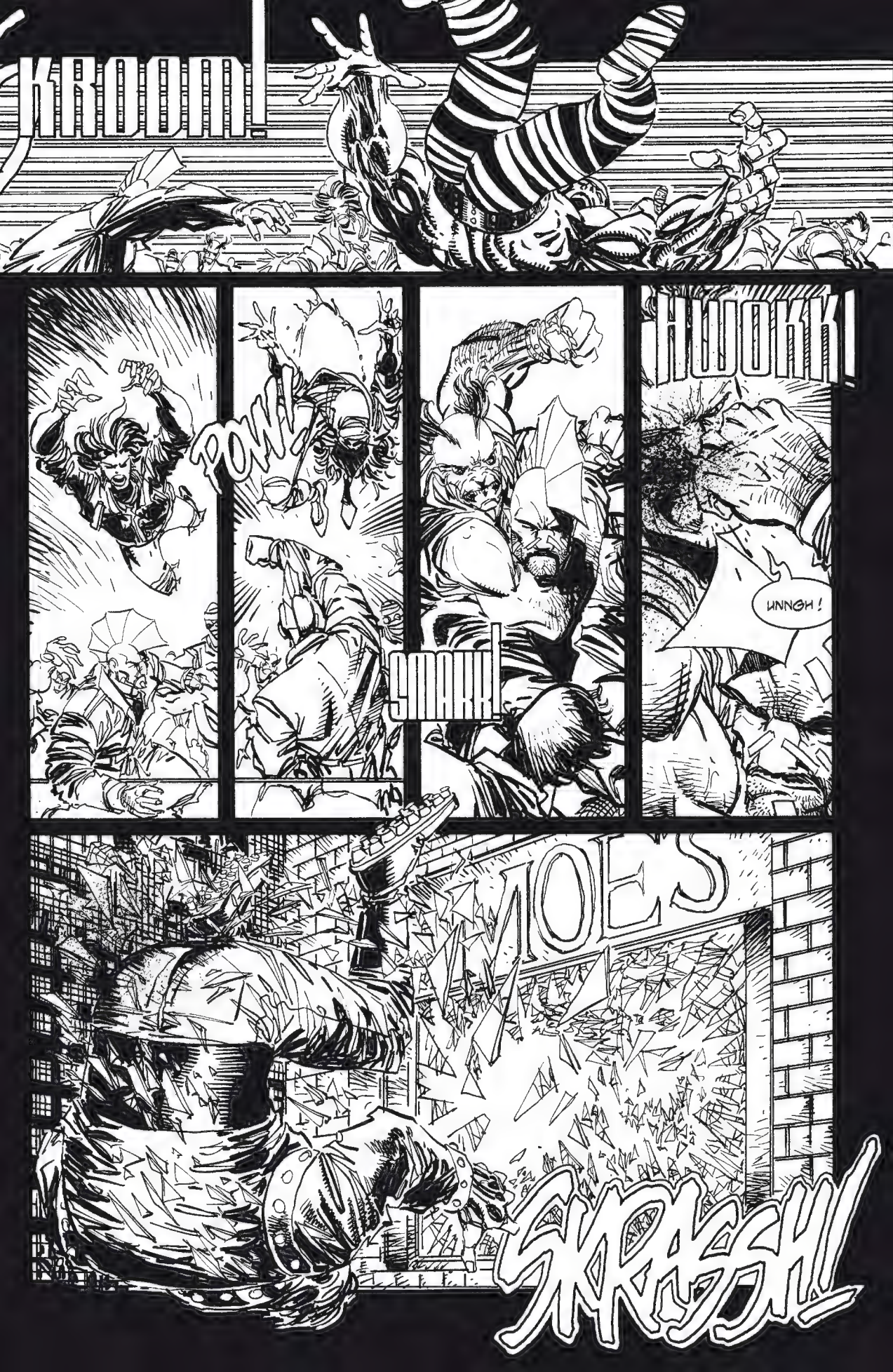

LOOK, I'M REALLY SORRY THAT IT'S TAKEN SO LONG FOR ANYTHING TO GET DONE AROUND HERE, BUT I CAN EXPLAIN--
SAVE IT.


IF IT WASN'T FOR LT. FRANK DARLING, I'D HAVE NEVER JOINED THE CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT IN THE FIRST PLACE.
WAS A TIME WE WORKED REALLY CLOSE TOGETHER. WE SHARED A COMMON GOAL.
DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO HIM LATELY. HE'S ACTING STRANGE.
I DON'T TRUST FRANK ANYMORE.

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT IT WAS *TWO YEARS AGO* THAT DRAGON WAS FOUND *ALIVE* IN A BURNING FIELD.
HE WOKE AS AN *AMNESIAC*-- UNABLE TO REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT HIS OWN LIFE, YET HE HAD FULL KNOWLEDGE OF EVERYTHING ELSE. A TYPE OF AMNESIA NEVER *HEARD* OF.
KNOWING OF THE EVER INCREASING SUPER-FREAK PROBLEMS IN THE CHICAGO AREA, I WAS *DETERMINED* THAT *THIS* ONE... THIS BLANK SLATE... WOULDN'T BECOME LIKE *SO MANY* OF THE OTHERS.
I GOT HIM A JOB AT MY COUSIN FRED'S WAREHOUSE.
BUT THE CITY'S PROBLEMS GOT *WORSE*. WE WERE LOSING THE BATTLE AND WE NEEDED AN *EDGE*. I ASKED HIM IF HE'D HELP US AND HE *REFUSED*.
IN *DESPERATION*, I ARRANGED FOR FREAKS TO THREATEN FRED, FIGURING THAT IF DRAGON SAW THEIR THREAT *FIRST-HAND* THAT HE MIGHT BE SWAYED TO JOIN THE FORCE.
IT *DIDN'T* WORK OUT AS I *PLANNED*.
AFTER DRAGON HAD THEM HAULED OFF TO JAIL, THE VILLAINS *BLEW UP* THE WAREHOUSE--*KILLING FRED*.
DRAGON *JOINED* THE FORCE--BUT AT A *PRICE*.
TURNS OUT THAT *SKULLFACE* FROM THE *VICIOUS CIRCLE* DISCOVERED MY SCHEME AND IS THREATENING TO BLOW THE WHISTLE ON ME.
MY CAREER WOULD BE *OVER*.
DRAGON MAY *LEAVE* THE FORCE.
SO, I'M OVER A BARREL. I CAN SEND HIM OFF AGAINST *RIVAL GANGS* OR INDEPENDENT MANIACS LIKE THIS *SHREW* CHARACTER BUT I'VE GOT TO STEER HIM AWAY FROM ANY VICIOUS CIRCLE ACTIVITIES.
I.T. DARLING
THE BAD GUYS ARE TIGHTENING THEIR GRIP ON THE CITY AND I CAN'T DO A *DAMN* THING ABOUT IT.

HEY, DRAGON.
HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A WHILE. HOW ARE YOU--
FRIEND OF YOURS?
POW
I THOUGHT SO.
POW
HE'S BEEN GOING THROUGH SOME ROUGH TIMES.
HIS GIRLFRIEND WAS KILLED IN HIS APARTMENT A COUPLE OF MONTHS BACK.
YO, PIPSQUEAK.
OH MY.

JOHNNY NITRO!
BUY YOU A BEER BEFORE I RUN YOUR ASS IN?
HA! RIGHT! I AIN'T GOIN' NOWHERE.
HA! Y'DON'T SCARE ME, DRAGON!
OOOOH, LOOK, HE'S A DRAGON!
SCARY DRAGON!
GONNA BREATHE FIRE ON ME, MISTER DRAGON--? OOPS, FORGOT!
YOU DON'T DO THAT, DO YOU?
HEY!
FRAWOOSH!!


KROOM!
POW!
SMAKK!
HOOKK!
UNNGH!
JOE'S
SKRASH!

RIIIKK!!
SMEK
OH NO!
MY BAR... MY BEAUTIFUL BAR-- IT'S BEEN DESTROYED!
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
THIS IS THE WORST DAY OF MY LIFE!
DO I TELL YOU MY PROBLEMS?
... ANOTHER REPORT OF A MIGHTY MAN SIGHTING. MIGHTY MAN DIED A YEAR AND A HALF AGO AFTER HIS ALTER EGO ROBERT BERMAN WAS KNIFED IN HIS ELGIN, ILLINOIS HOME.
IN OTHER NEWS, SINGER/ACTOR PETER KLAPTIN HAS LOST MOST OF HIS TRADEMARK HAIR AFTER A DEVASTATING FIRE THAT...

JUST OUTSIDE DEKALB, ILLINOIS...
MOM ?
DAD ?
MOM-- WHERE ARE YOU...?
MOM!?

THERE YOU ARE.
ARE YOU OKAY?
THIS PLACE IS A MESS.
THE CLEANING WOMAN'S GOT THE DAY OFF.
NO KIDDING, DRAGON, I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
ARE YOU DOING ALL RIGHT--? YOU LOOK AWFUL.
I KNOW THINGS HAVE BEEN PRETTY BAD FOR YOU LATELY. TRYING TO DEAL WITH YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S DEATH...IT'S TOUGH, I'M SURE.
I'D REALLY LIKE TO HELP, IF I CAN.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, ALEX?
YOU WANT TO HOP IN THE SACK, OR WHAT?
IN YOUR DREAMS!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
I JUST THINK YOU SHOULD TRY AND DEAL WITH THE FEELINGS THAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD SEE HER.
HER GRAVE, I MEAN. IT HELPED ME A LOT WHEN MY DAD PASSED AWAY.

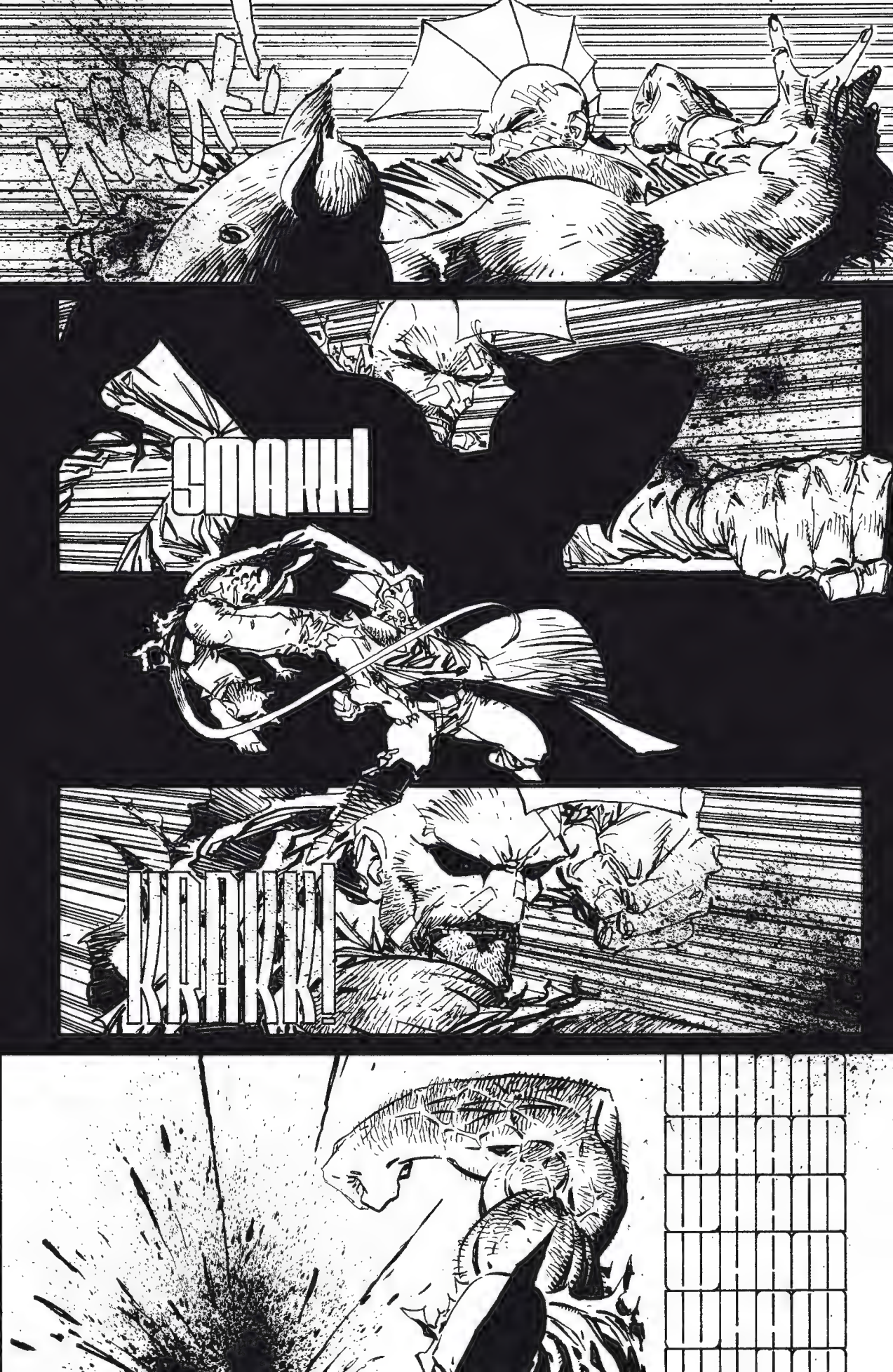
MRS. HARRIS, I...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
YOU... GET OUT OF HERE.
MY DAUGHTER'S DEAD AND IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!
I'M SORRY...
GET OUT OF HERE.
LEAVE MY DAUGHTER ALONE!
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR FORGIVENESS, YOU CAN FORGET IT!
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU!
YOU'LL BURN IN HELL FOR WHAT YOU DID.
THERE.
NOW, DON'T YOU FEEL BETTER?
NEXT TIME, WHY NOT SIMPLY POUND NAILS INTO MY FOREHEAD-- IT'S LESS PAINFUL AND I WOULDN'T HAVE TO DRIVE ANYWHERE.

CRAZY DAY.
SOME NUTTY OLD BROAD KEEPS CALLING UP THE PRECINCT CLAIMING TO BE MY MOTHER AND TELLING EVERYBODY THAT MY REAL NAME IS RODNEY SCHWARTZBLATT.
IT'S BEEN ANOTHER INSANE DAY IN THIS INSANE CITY.
BUT THE DAY'S NOT OVER. NOT FOR ME ANYWAY
I KNEW HE COULDN'T STAY HIDDEN FOR LONG.
A GUY LIKE HIM HAS TROUBLE KEEPING A LOW PROFILE.
HE'S LEFT ANOTHER TRAIL OF BLOODY CARNAGE BEHIND HIM.
HE WON'T BE GETTING AWAY THIS TIME.
-- I CAME PREPARED.

HEY, BEAUTIFUL...
...MIND IF I CUT IN?

NICE STRATEGY.
IDIOT.
KRAACK!

CHAKK!
UNKK!


KICK!
SMAKK!
KRAKK!
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM

KRAKKRAKKRAKKRAKKRAK

DRAGON, I NEED YOU TO--
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
BLASTED BANDAGES ITCH.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT--I HEAL FAST, REMEMBER?

THERE'S BEEN SOME TROUBLE IN THE UNDERGROUND. A COUPLE OF SUPER-POWERED HOMELESS HAVE OCCUPIED AN ABANDONED BUILDING DOWN THERE AND--
FRANK...

... I'LL CHECK IT OUT. BUT I HOPE THIS IS A BETTER TIP THAN YOUR LAST FEW.
SOMETIMES I THINK YOU DREAM UP THESE LITTLE ESCAPADES TO KEEP ME OUT OF THE REAL ACTION.
IT'S STARTING TO PISS ME OFF.
CHICAGO

IT'S CALLED CHICAGO'S UNDERGROUND. RATHER THAN TEAR DOWN THE *OLD* STRUCTURES, THEY WERE SIMPLY BUILT ON *TOP* OF. WHAT REMAINS BELOW IS AN EXTENSIVE MAZE OF HALF-USED AND ABANDONED BUILDINGS.
IT CAN BE A DANGEROUS PLACE.
OVER THE YEARS THEY'VE BECOME A *HAVEN* FOR TOUR-GUIDES AND TOURISTS, DRUG ADDICTS, DERELICTS AND SUPER-FREAKS.
THAK!

MISTER...
... YOU'RE ASKING FOR IT.

BARBARIC --

DON'T!

HE'S A COP FER CHRISSAKE!

WHAM!

CRASH!
OH, GEEZ!
YOU'RE IN BIG TROUBLE.
UH... MAYBE WE SHOULD...
FORGET IT, RICOCHET.
HE'S THE ONE INVADING OUR TURF--
--WE'VE GOT TO DEFEND IT!
WHATEVER YOU SAY, BIG GUY.

HWAMM!
BARBARIC!!
NO!!
BONK!

POW!
THOOM!
BARBARIC!!
KA
KA
THOOM!

HE'S HAD ENOUGH!
DON'T KILL HIM!
STOP IT!

ARE YOU GUYS CRAZY?!!
KNOCK IT OFF!
WE'RE JUST CRASHING IN AN ABANDONED BUILDING-- WE'RE NOT HURTING ANYBODY. ARE YOU GOING TO KICK THE CRAP OUT OF US FOR THAT?!?
I'M SORRY.
SORRY.
I SHOULD HOPE SO.

THESE LAST FEW MONTHS HAVE BEEN A BLUR.
TOO MANY BAD GUYS. TOO MUCH TRAVELING. TOO MANY FIGHTS. SOMETIMES I THINK I'M JUST GOING TO GO NUTS.
I'M SORRY IF I OVERREACTED. I'VE BEEN UNDER A LOT OF STRESS LATELY-- I KNOW THAT'S NOT A VERY GOOD EXCUSE AND THAT IT DOESN'T REALLY MAKE UP FOR WHAT I'VE DONE BUT--
I KIND OF STARTED IT. I SHOULDN'T HAVE SMACKED THAT GUN OUT OF YOUR HANDS BUT YOU COULD HAVE BEEN ANYBODY.
YEAH... YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YOUR PICTURES-- THAT MOUSTACHE MAKES YOU LOOK LIKE ONE OF THE VILLAGE PEOPLE.
SWELL.
LISTEN KIDS, IT'S BEEN FUN BUT I CAN SEE I'M NOT REALLY NEEDED HERE.
I SHOULD GET BACK TO WORK.
UM, OKAY.
IF WE CAN, Y'KNOW, HELP SOMEHOW, WE'D LIKE TO.
WE'RE KIND OF LOOKING FOR REGULAR WORK-- IT'S TOUGH TO MAKE ENDS MEET SOMETIMES...
I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.
I COULD CERTAINLY USE THE HELP.
BE SEEING YOU.
BYE.

HEYYYY, DRAGON.
MEN
LOSING THE FACE FUZZ, EH? RIGHT ON.
LISTEN, PAL--YOU GONNA GIVE DORIS A CALL OR WHAT?
I MEAN, I KIND OF TOLD HER YOU WOULD...
CRAP.
DID YOU HAVE TO TELL HER IT WAS ME?
IT'S DIFFICULT TO DESCRIBE YOU WITHOUT GIVING AWAY WHO YOU ARE. I MEAN, ONCE YOU SAY YOU'VE GOT GREEN SKIN, THE POSSIBILITIES DIMINISH CONSIDERABLY.
ONCE YOU ASSURE THEM THAT YOU DON'T HAVE A BOWL HAIR CUT, A SQUISHY LITTLE NOSE, RUN AROUND THE MIDWEST IN TORN PURPLE TROUSERS AND HAVE THE IQ OF A TURNIP, THE FIELD GETS EVEN NARROWER.
SWELL.
SO THE WORD GETS OUT THAT I'M PITIFUL, LONELY AND DESPERATE--THAT'S JUST GREAT.
ONCE THEY KNOW IT'S ME, THEIR MIND IS MADE UP--EITHER THEY'RE ALL WEIRD ABOUT GOING OUT WITH A FREAK OR THEY JUST WANT TO GO OUT WITH ME SO THAT THEY HAVE SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT AT THE OFFICE THE NEXT DAY.
I'M ALWAYS GOOD FOR THAT.
LIGHTEN UP, MAN--ALL US SINGLE GUYS ARE PITIFUL, LONELY AND DESPERATE--THAT'S WHY WE'RE STILL SINGLE.
WOMEN CAN SENSE IT SOMEHOW.
I CAN ALWAYS GET A FIRST DATE BECAUSE OF THE NOVELTY OF IT.
JUST SO THAT THEY CAN GO TO WORK THE NEXT DAY AND SAY "YOU'LL NEVER BELIEVE WHO I WENT OUT WITH LAST NIGHT."
KEEP UP THAT ATTITUDE AND YOU'LL NEVER GET LAID.
?
I JUST MIGHT GO FOR THE RECORD.

WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT!
MY MY MY.
OH MY.
OH, LORDY.
PIGS.
CHICAGO NEWS
MIGHTY MAN ALIVE?
NEW EVIDENCE SUPPORTS THEORY

YO, HONEY, HOW 'BOUT YOU AN' ME--
DROP DEAD.
JUST WHERE DO YOU THINK *YOU'RE* GOING?
OH.
I'M SUPPOSED TO REPORT TO CAPTAIN STEWART. I'M ***DART***, THE NEW SUPER-COP.
I'M OFFICER WILDE.
SHEESH, IT'S ABOUT *TIME* WE GOT ANOTHER ONE.
OFFICER DRAGON'S BEEN PUSHING TO GET MORE SUPER TYPES ON THE FORCE FOR A *WHILE* NOW.
DID ***LT. DARLING*** SEND FOR YOU?
NO, CAPTAIN STEWART DID.
APPARENTLY, OFFICER DRAGON KEEPS GETTING ***LOANED OUT*** AND THINGS GO TO ***HELL*** WHENEVER HE'S ***GONE***.
CAPTAIN STEWART THOUGHT MY ARRIVAL SHOULD BE KEPT A ***SECRET*** IN CASE THERE WAS ANYTHING ***SUSPICIOUS*** GOING ON.
OH.

I'VE BEEN FIGHTING CRIME IN DETROIT AND CAPTAIN STEWART CONTACTED ME ABOUT WORKING HERE.
WELL, YOU'VE CERTAINLY COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE.
WE COULD USE A FEW MORE COPS LIKE OFFICER DRAGON.
WHERE IS THE DRAGON, ANYWAY?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
CODE BLUE, DART!
DRAGON'S OUT OF TOWN RIGHT NOW.
SO NATURALLY ALL HELL'S BROKEN LOOSE.
LET'S GO SEE HOW THOSE PRETTY TIGHTS DO YOU IN REAL COMBAT, GIRL.
WELCOME TO CHICAGO.
I LIKE IT ALREADY!

I'M NOT TOO CRAZY ABOUT BEING IN NEW YORK.

SOME LIVING *GARGOYLE* IS BUZZING AROUND SNATCHING UP OLD LADIES AND FOR SOME STUPID REASON *I'M* CALLED IN TO DEAL WITH IT.

WHY NOT *SUPREME* OR ONE OF THOSE *YOUNGBLOOD* CHARACTERS?

DON'T THEY HAVE *ANY* SUPER-POWERED DO-GOODERS HERE? I'VE GOT TO LOOK AFTER MY *OWN* TOWN.

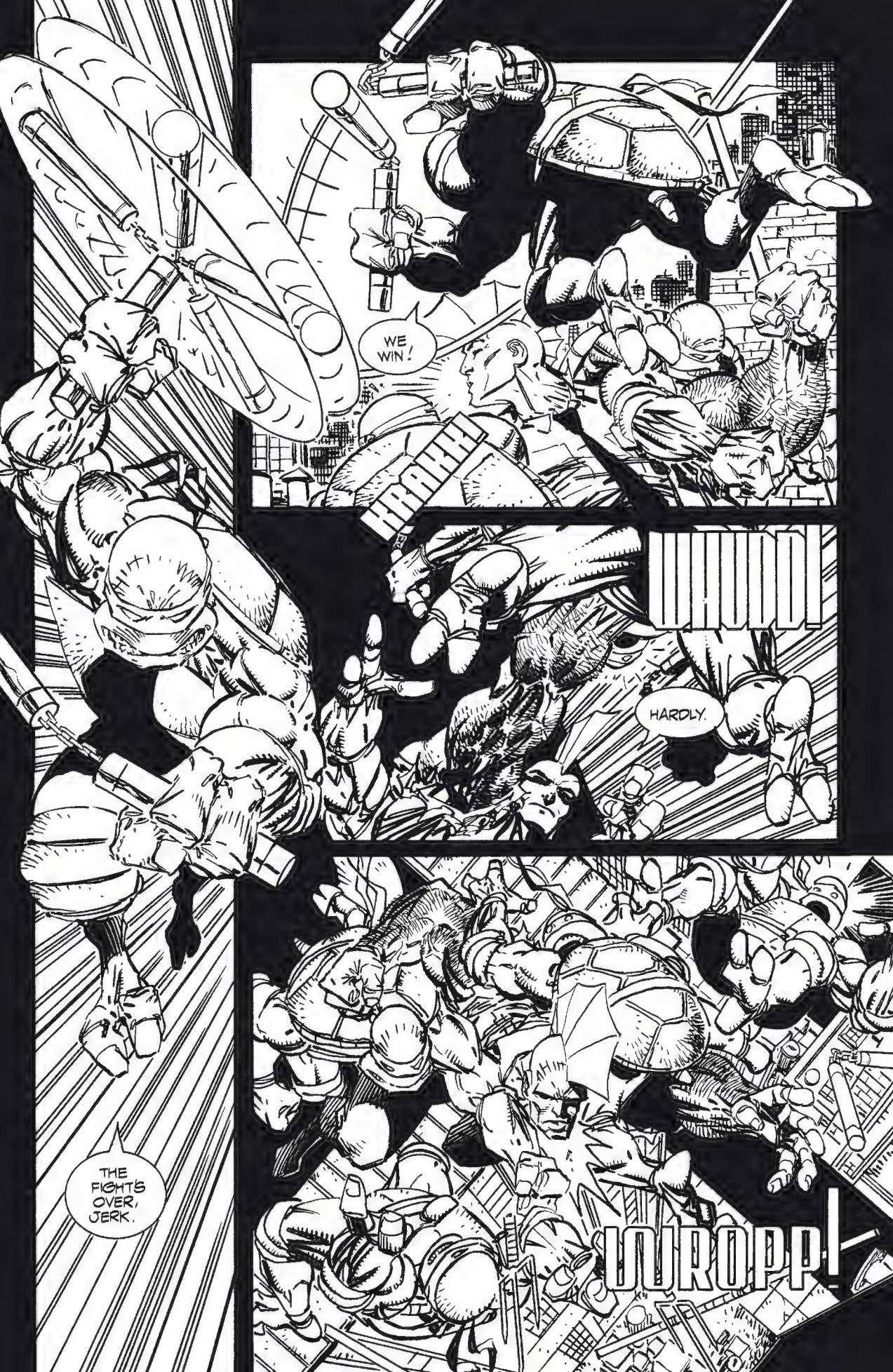
FIRST IT WAS THAT INSANE VIGILANTE *CHIROPRACTOR* AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, I'M HERE EVERY OTHER MONTH.

I DON'T LIKE NEW YORK.

TOO MANY *WEIRDOS.*

WHUDD!
WHUDD!
WHAT THE...?
BLASTED IDIOTS, WHAT THE HELL DO YOU--
KRAKK!
KRACK!
UMMPH!

TAKE THAT!
OUCH!
WATCH IT, RAPH!
HOLD HIM FOR ME, GUYS!
I OWE HIM ONE!
NOBODY MAKES ME LOOK BAD...!
YOU'LL LOOK LIKE SWISS CHEESE IN A MINUTE, YOU LITTLE CREEP!
HAKK!
OH, NO YOU DON'T!
WHOO!


WE WIN!
HARDLY.
THE FIGHT'S OVER, JERK.

WUMP
WUDD
RUNK
THUD
CHOOM!
HOO BOY!
I'M A POLICE OFFICER, PUNKS.
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
HOLY COW! HE'S THAT DRAGON-COP FROM CHICAGO!
NO WAY!
WAY!
COOL!
WE THOUGHT YOU WERE THAT KILLER GARGOYLE, MAN!
YEAH, WE WERE AFTER HIM!
SPOOKY!

WHO ARE YOU CLOWNS?
WE ARE NINJA.
I AM LEONARDO.
MICHAELANGELO.
DONATELLO.
RAPHAEL.
WE WANT TO KICK GARGOYLE BUTT!
WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE?
SHUT UP, MIKE.
SORRY 'BOUT ATTACKING YOU, DUDE, IN THE DARK FROM THE BACK YOU LOOKED LIKE...
DON'T MENTION IT.
YOU'RE THE WEIRDEST LOOKING NINJA I'VE EVER HEARD OF.
ARE YOU GUYS FOR REAL?
WE ARE.
YOU'RE A FINE ONE TO TALK.
YEAH.
WE INTEND TO STALK AND DEFEAT THIS KILLER GARGOYLE.
WILL YOU STAND IN OUR WAY?
NAH.
I'M SUPPOSED TO DEAL WITH THE BASTARD MYSELF.
IF YOU GUYS FEEL UP TO HELPING ME BAG THE SUCKER, THAT'S OKAY BY ME.

"THERE HE IS, LET'S GET GET HIM." WHAT A DORK!
HEY, IT WAS AN HONEST MISTAKE!
I NOTICED YOU JUMPED RIGHT AT HIM WITHOUT THINKING TWICE.
BUTT-HEAD!
POMPOUS JERK!
KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN AND DON'T MOVE UNLESS I TELL YOU TO.
LOOK, I DON'T HAVE TO PUT UP WITH THIS CRAP.
I'M DOING IT BECAUSE I'M A NICE GUY-- BUT DON'T PUSH IT, OKAY?
YOU DON'T WANT TO GET A SPANKING FROM THIS BABY-SITTER.

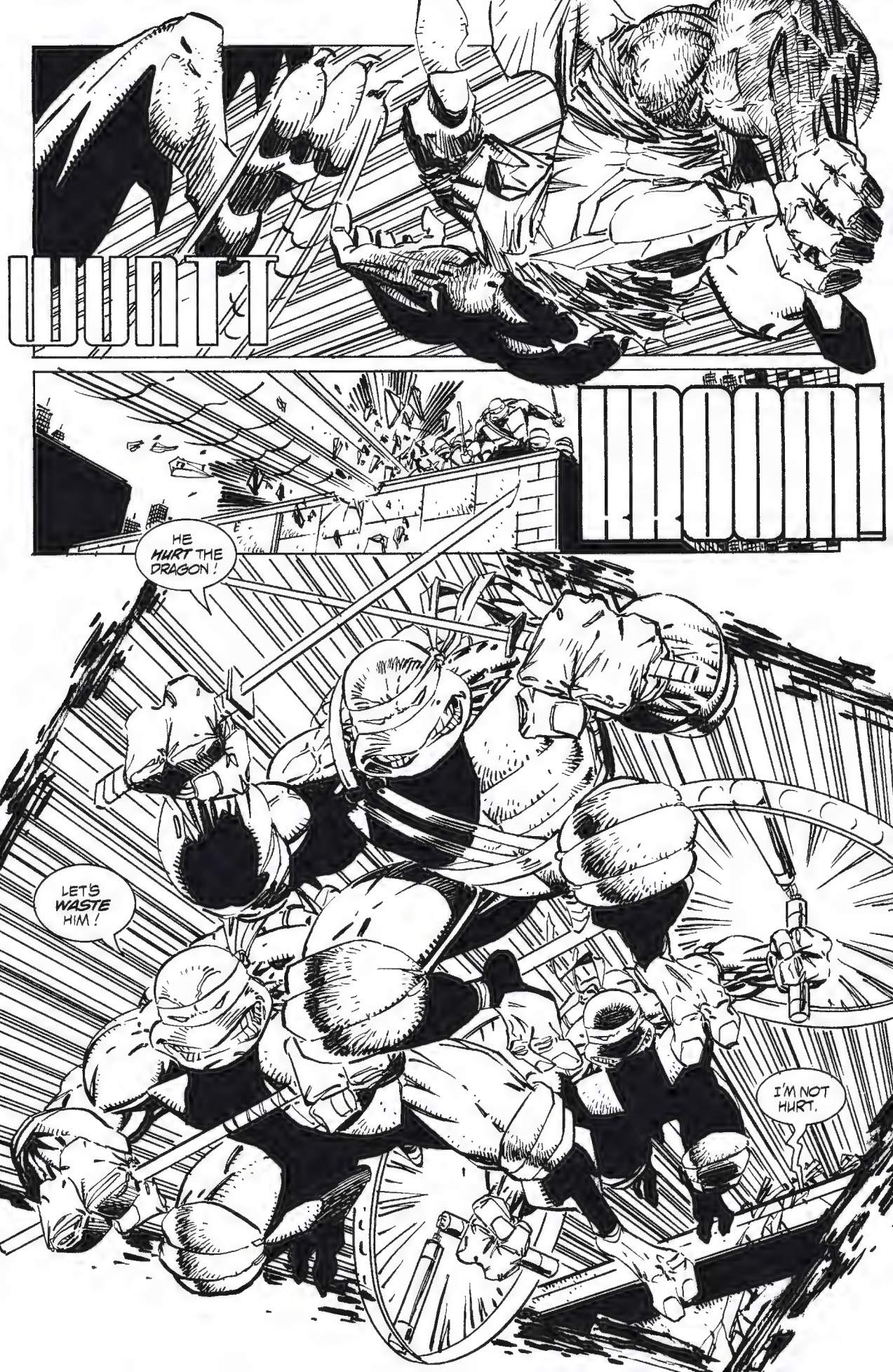
SKREE

OKAY, FELLOWS-- YOU CAN MOVE IF YOU'D LIKE.

THERE HE IS!

LET'S GET HIM!

THOK
THOK
THOK
HOLD ON!
WUMPH!
OOOMPH!
SKRA-THOOM!
THIS SUCKER'S DUST!


WUNT
HE HURT THE DRAGON!
LET'S WASTE HIM!
I'M NOT HURT.

WAK
TAK
WHOK
BIFF
DAMN, THIS CREATURE'S TOUGH!
WE DON'T SEEM TO BE HURTING HIM!
GET IN CLOSER, SO I CAN NAIL HIM!
KRAWROOOOOOSH!
EEYOWL

CLOSE ENOUGH!
SKRA-POW!!
BRAKKABAPOOM
YOW!

WEIRD.
I DON'T GET IT. HOW COULD A GRANITE STATUE FLY ?
MAGIC.
YOU'VE GOT TO BE JOKING.
DO YOU HAVE A BETTER EXPLANATION ?
YEAH, MAYBE IT WAS THE TOOTH FAIRY--
--OR THE EASTER BUNNY-- DID YOU CONSIDER THAT ?
SHEESH !
LEO'S SERIOUS, DRAGON.

LOOK, THE SUCKER'S TAKEN CARE OF. THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.
I'M NOT SO SURE.
I DON'T THINK THIS PILE OF ROCKS WAS ACTING ON ITS OWN.
THERE WAS PROBABLY SOMEONE ELSE PULLING THE STRINGS.
WHATEVER.
I WON'T BE HANGING AROUND TO FIND OUT. I'M NEEDED BACK IN CHICAGO.
IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE, BOYS.
HEY, US BALD, GREEN GUYS HAVE TO STICK TOGETHER.
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.
CATCH YOU LATER.
YEAH.
I WONDER IF WE'LL EVER KNOW WHAT THAT WAS ALL ABOUT.

DeKALB, ILLINOIS.
HELLO?
HELLO?
IS ANYBODY HOME?
OOP-- THE DOOR WAS OPEN!
IS ANYBODY--
HELLO...?

AFTER THE BREAK, WE'LL BE BRINGING OUT OUR NEXT GUEST. HE'S A BIG STAR MAKING HIS FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE SINCE HE LOST MUCH OF HIS TRADEMARK HAIR IN A DEVASTATING FIRE A FEW MONTHS AGO --
--MR. PETER KLAPTIN!
TWO MINUTES, MR. KLAPTIN.
OKAY, OKAY.
NERVOUS?
ME? NEVER!
I'VE FACED WORSE AND LIVED TO TALK ABOUT IT.
WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM TO BRING YOU A SPECIAL NEWS BULLETIN.
THIS IS SAM HAZE. STRONGHOLD PENITENTIARY IS IN THE MIDST OF ONE OF THE WORST JAILBREAKS IN RECENT TIMES.
IT'S BEEN HOME FOR MANY OF THE MOST NOTORI SUPER CRIMIN CHICAGO AND..
CRAP.
YOU'RE ON, MR. KLAPTIN!
MR. KLAPTIN?
SIMPSON, I SEE YOUR DOODLE.
SHUT UP, FLANDERS.

END OF THE LINE, BOYS.

THE DRAGON MAY BE OUT OF TOWN BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THERE'S NOBODY AROUND TO *STOP* YOU.

YOU'RE NOT GOING *ANYWHERE* BUT BACK *INSIDE*.

HUORRI

THOK THOK THOK THOK THOK THOK

OOOOF!

YOU'RE *CRAZY*, LADY.

WE'LL RIP YOUR SCRAWNY ASS APART.

YOU'RE TOTALLY OUTNUMBERED, TOOTS.
AND TOTALLY OVERPOWERED.
GIVE IT UP.
I'M NOT THAT EASY, SQUIRT.
I DON'T SURRENDER JUST BECAUSE I'M ASKED TO.
GET IT?
I'D LISTEN TO LOWBLOW IF I WERE YOU.

STUPID BIMBO.
COME ON, MAN--GET ME OUT OF HERE!
WHO...?
HEYYYYY, I KNOW YOU!
YOU'RE HARDWARE, THE CLOWN TRYIN' TO COP A PLEA BY RATTING ON THE BIG MAN.
GOT A PRESENT FOR YOU...!
BLAM BLAM BLAM
DON'T SAY I NEVER GAVE YOU ANYTHING.

WHAT THE...?
SORRY, CHARLIE!
IS THE CIRCUS IN TOWN OR WHAT?
THANKS FOR THE ASSIST, STRANGER.
DO THIS SORT OF THING OFTEN?
TOO OFTEN.
AND THE NAME'S STAR.

I'M DART.
THOK THOK THOK THOK THOK
WHY YOU LITTLE...!
THAK THAK THAK THAK
PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
ARE YOU NEW IN TOWN?
VERY.
NICE PLACE. THINGS ALWAYS SO CRAZY?
THIS IS NOTHING.
YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE WHEN THE BULLS WON THE FINALS.
GET HER!
KILL HER!
HOW ABOUT THIS: NONE OF THE ABOVE.

UNNGH!!
THUNK!
WHOK
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.
DON'T KNOW WHY YOU WEENIES ARE EVEN SLOWING US DOWN.
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY MAJOR POWERS-- WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
BODYCOUNT WILL TAKE YOU OUT!
DAMN.
POW!
WAM!
WHAT WAS THAT?
TZOUUU!

JESUS!
ZING!
Mighty Man
TZAKK
TZAKK
TZAKK
FWOP
FWOP
FWOP
FWOP

THEY'VE GOT THE HEAVY ARTILLERY UP AND RUNNING...
MOVE YER FAT ASS, BUD UGLY!
I'M GOING AS FAST AS I CAN, MAKO.
YOU'LL BE SAFE HERE.
YOU...
...YOU'VE GOT TO STOP THEM...!
CRIMINALS...
...DANGEROUS SUPER-FREAKS.
CAN'T JUST LET THEM ESCAPE--
--YOU'VE GOT TO STOP THEM...!
I...
...CAN'T DO THAT.
SORRY.

YOU'RE LOOKING GOOD.
ARE YOU COMING OUT OF YOUR FUNK OR JUST HAPPY TO BE OUT OF UNIFORM?
HI ALEX.
MISS ME?
YEAH. THINGS WENT TO HELL AS USUAL.
I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT FRANK.
WHILE YOU WERE AWAY, CAPTAIN STEWART GOT IN A NEW SUPER-POWERED RECRUIT AND SHE'D NEVER EVEN HEARD OF LT. FRANK DARLING.
FRANK'S TOO STRAIGHT TO GO BAD. SOMEBODY MUST HAVE GOTTEN TO HIM.
IT WOULD CERTAINLY EXPLAIN A LOT OF THINGS.

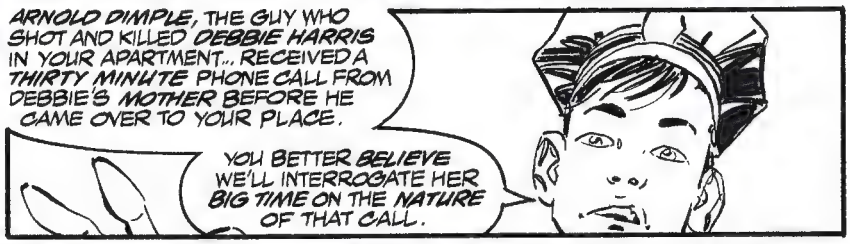
HI.
HI THERE.
I'M OFFICER DRAGON.
SO I FIGURED.
I'M DART.
WHERE WERE YOU LAST NIGHT?
IN NEW YORK DEALING WITH FLYING GARGOYLES AND TALKING TURTLES.
IT WASN'T PRETTY.
I'LL BET.
YOU MISSED QUITE A PARTY.
SO I HEARD.
A LOT OF DANGEROUS CRIMINALS ESCAPED.
THINGS GOT PRETTY HAIRY. THIS STAR FELLOW SHOWED UP TO HELP BUT WE WERE OVERPOWERED.
OUR LIVES WERE SAVED BY MIGHTY MAN.
REALLY.
DID ELVIS COME ALONG WITH HIM?
A PITY YOU WERE OUT OF TOWN.
WASN'T IT?
YEAH.
WAS THIS THE FAT MIGHTY MAN OR THE YOUNG, HIP MIGHTY MAN?
I COULD HAVE SWORN I SAW HIM IN A DOUGHNUT SHOP ONE TIME...!

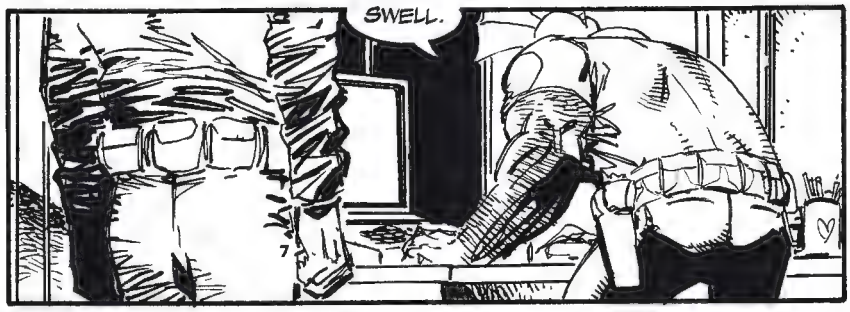
THAT'S NOT FUNNY.
I'M SERIOUS.
WHY WEREN'T YOU HERE?
I WAS SENT ELSEWHERE. IT HAPPENS.
IT'S PART OF MY JOB, I DON'T LIKE IT BUT I DO WHAT I'M TOLD.
DOING IT COST LIVES, I'D ADVISE YOU TO DO OTHERWISE IN THE FUTURE.
YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF NERVE COMING IN HERE AND TELLING ME HOW I SHOULD RUN MY LIFE.
AHEM.
MR. DRAGON, YOU'RE UPSETTING THE OTHER PATIENTS. I'M AFRAID I'VE GOT TO ASK YOU TO LEAVE.
MISS...
...YOU JUST SAID THE MAGIC WORD.
DRAGON!
HEY, WAIT UP!
SHE'S BEEN BADLY HURT... I'M SURE SHE DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING BY IT.
WHO ASKED FOR HER HELP IN THE FIRST PLACE? BLASTED, PIG-HEADED...
YOU DID.
AND YOU COULD TEACH HER A THING OR TWO ABOUT BEING PIG-HEADED.
THANKS.
I LOVE YOU, TOO.
WE'RE ALL TRYING TO FIGHT THE SAME BATTLE, DRAGON.
POLICE
I'M DOING ALL I CAN.

SURE YOU ARE. WE ALL ARE.
JUST WANTED TO BE THE FIRST TO CONGRATULATE YOU, FRANKIE.
YOU AND MILDRED MUST BE VERY HAPPY.
BABY'S DUE IN MARCH I BELIEVE...?
I'VE GOT TO GO.
IS THERE SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE TO TALK TO ME ABOUT, FRANK?
NOT RIGHT NOW.
NO.

THAT WOMAN WHO CLAIMS TO BE YOUR MOTHER KEEPS CALLING.
AS DOES SOME WOMAN NAMED AMANDA MILLS.
PLUS THE USUAL ASSORTMENT OF WEIRDOS AND CREEPS.
OTHER NEWS OF INTEREST: A LEECH-LIKE CREATURE WAS REMOVED FROM THE NECK OF THE SHREW. THE PUBLIC DEFENDER IS MAKING A CASE FOR IT BEING THE REASON THAT HE WENT CRAZY.
SHE'S TRYING TO GET HIS CASE DISMISSED.
CRAZY BROAD.

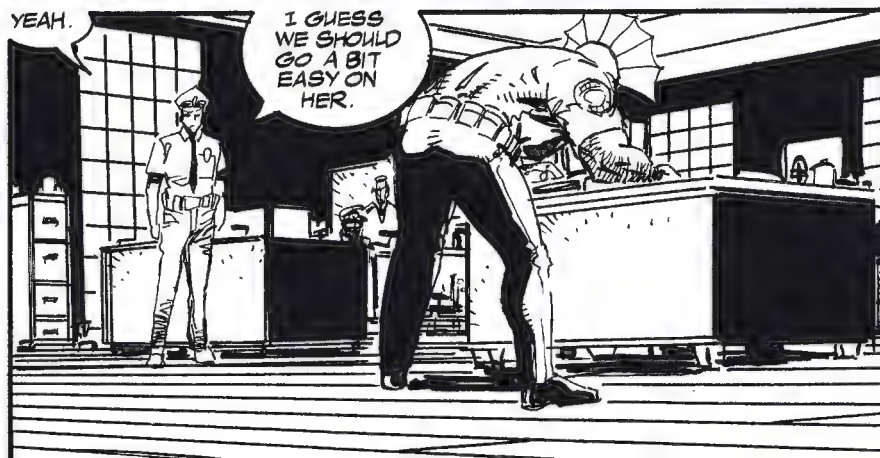
CHRIST, A GUY GOES OUT OF TOWN FOR TWO DAYS AND...
OH, OH! GET THIS!


ARNOLD DIMPLE, THE GUY WHO SHOT AND KILLED DEBBIE HARRIS IN YOUR APARTMENT... RECEIVED A THIRTY MINUTE PHONE CALL FROM DEBBIE'S MOTHER BEFORE HE CAME OVER TO YOUR PLACE.
YOU BETTER BELIEVE WE'LL INTERROGATE HER BIG TIME ON THE NATURE OF THAT CALL.


SWELL.

I'M NOT SURE WHERE THIS WILL ALL LEAD. IT MAY BE THAT SHE TOLD HIM THAT HIS EX-GIRLFRIEND WAS WITH ME. WHATEVER SHE MAY HAVE SAID OR DONE TO GET THE KID TO COME OVER RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF HER OWN DAUGHTER.

TO MY MIND, THAT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH PUNISHMENT.
SHE'S GOT TO LIVE WITH THAT.


YEAH.
I GUESS WE SHOULD GO A BIT EASY ON HER.

OUCH.
CRAP.
WHAT A CRUMMY VESSEL. ISN'T ANYWHERE *NEAR* WHAT IT *SHOULD* BE.
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE.
HHUNNGH!
I'D RATHER NOT, THANKS.
AS FOR YOU--
BURN IN *HELL* YOU *BASTARD!*

YOU'LL HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN *THAT*, I'M AFRAID.
I'VE TAKEN HOTTER *SHOWERS*.
STOP HIM!
KILL HIM!
MISTER...
...YOU'RE IN *TROUBLE*.
PREPARE TO FACE THE *FIEND!!*
NO *SWEAT*, CHUMP.

HHUNNGH!
AHHHH...
...POOP!
NOT ENOUGH HATE TO FUEL THIS VESSEL.
PITIFUL SPECIMEN.
I LEAVE YOU.
BE WARNED, GENTLEMEN...
...I'LL BE BACK...
LOOK AT THAT.
HE'S CHANGING.
THAT'S CHARLEY McARTHUR, FROM ACCOUNTING.
SOME KIND OF DEMON TOOK OVER HIS BODY.
MY GOD, WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE?

DEKALB, ILLINOIS.
WHAT A MESS.
LOOKS LIKE THESE TWO HAVE BEEN RIPENING A WHILE.
PEE-YEW!
SEE IF THEY LEFT A NOTE OR SOMETHING.
I THINK I HEAR SOMETHING.
BE CAREFUL.
I WILL. I WILL.
YOU SOUND LIKE MY WIFE!
SOUNDS LIKE SOMEBODY LEFT A TV...
...ON.
OH MY GOD.

HE'S HERE.

WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE PROBLEM, KIDS ?
GO GET 'EM !
OFFICER DRAGON-- THANK TH' LORD.
GREAT.
ALL RIGHT !
NEAR AS WE CAN TELL, THE FOLKS WHAT LIVED HERE KILLED THEMSELVES -- BLEW THEIR BRAINS OUT, NOT SURE WHY BUT I FIGURE IT'S GOT SOMETHIN' TO DO WITH WHAT'S IN THEIR BASEMENT.
SOME KIND OF MONSTER.
'S'WHY WE CALLED YOU.
YER USED TO DEALIN' WITH THIS SORT OF THANG.
NICE.
WE'LL BE TAKING CARE OF THE MESS SOON.
THAT AIN'T YOUR CONCERN.
THIS IS.
THERE'S A MONSTER DOWN THERE.
JESUS !
WHAT'RE YOU DOING ?
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YER UP AGAINST !

HE'S ONE WACKY CAT, DAVE.

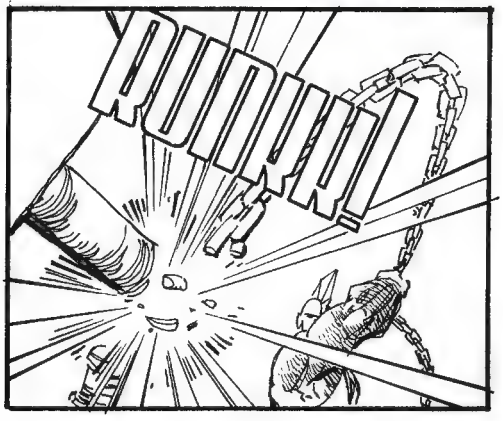
YOU SAID IT, PAUL.

LET'S GET HIM OUT HERE...

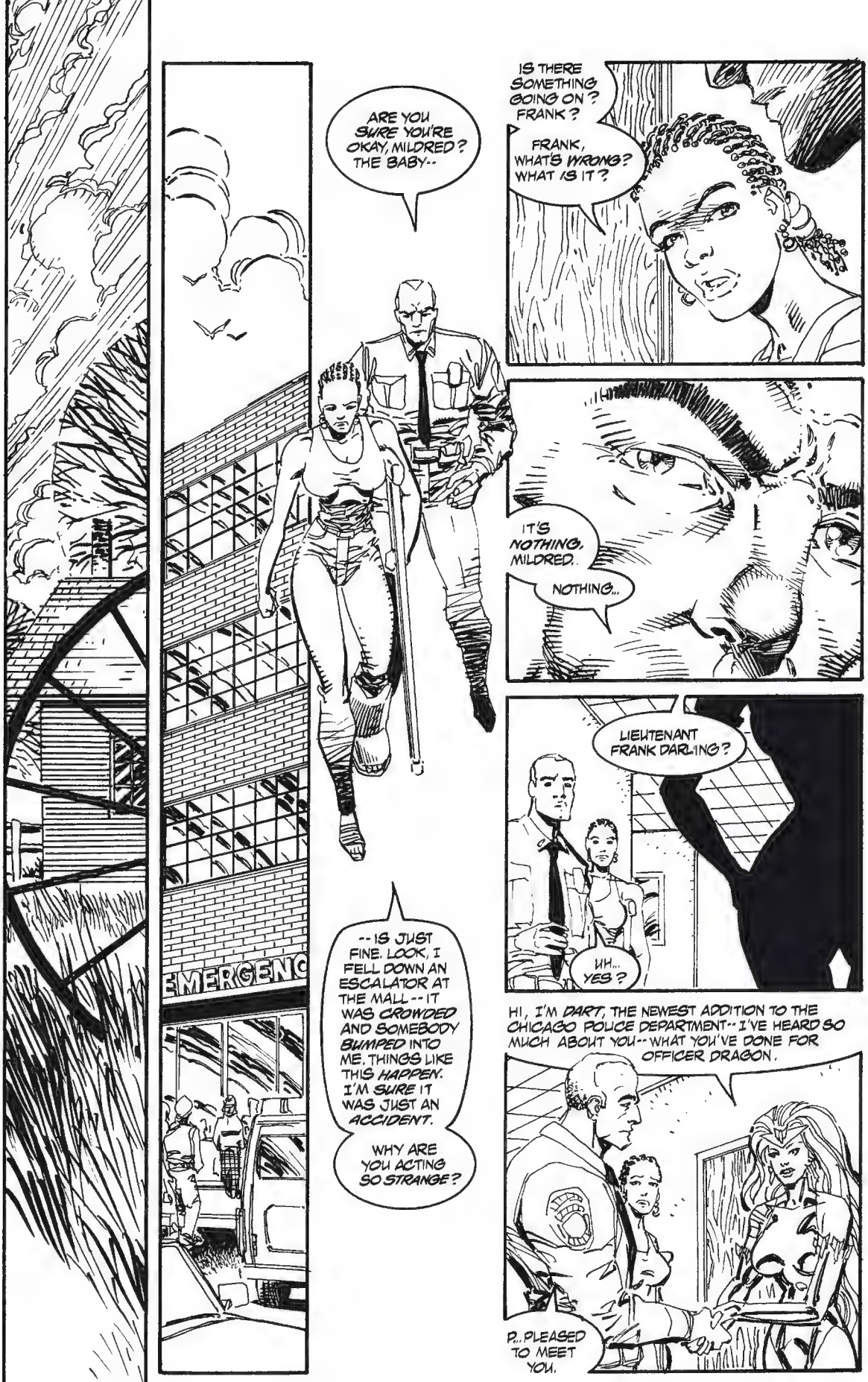
HEY, BIFF, LET WILLARD OUT OF HIS CAGE!

LOOK AT YOU.
YOU'RE NO THREAT.

BARELY ALIVE.
NOT DOING SO WELL, ARE YOU, GIRL?


PUNK!

W-WHAT IS IT?
IT'S A LITTLE GIRL-- YOU IDIOTS.
SHE'S A FREAK LIKE ME AND SHE'S BEEN CHAINED UP DOWN HERE FOR A HELL OF A LONG TIME, FROM THE LOOKS OF IT.
SHE'S IN NO SHAPE TO HURT ANYBODY.
SHE'S STARVING TO DEATH--
--AND I'M GOING TO HELP HER.


ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY, MILDRED? THE BABY--
EMERGENC
--IS JUST FINE. LOOK, I FELL DOWN AN ESCALATOR AT THE MALL -- IT WAS CROWDED AND SOMEBODY BUMPED INTO ME. THINGS LIKE THIS HAPPEN. I'M SURE IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT.
WHY ARE YOU ACTING SO STRANGE?
IS THERE SOMETHING GOING ON? FRANK?
FRANK, WHAT'S WRONG? WHAT IS IT?
IT'S NOTHING, MILDRED.
NOTHING...
LIEUTENANT FRANK DARLING?
UH... YES?
HI, I'M DART, THE NEWEST ADDITION TO THE CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT-- I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT YOU-- WHAT YOU'VE DONE FOR OFFICER DRAGON.
P...PLEASED TO MEET YOU.

IT'S FINGER LICKIN' GOOD!
MUNCH MUNCH
SHE SEEMS TO BE RECOVERING QUITE NICELY, CAPTAIN STEWART.
YES, YES.
QUITE NICELY, INDEED.
SHE'S PERFECT. PERFECT.
HER ENTIRE BODY IS COVERED WITH SHARP SPIKES. SHE'D BE A TERRIFIC ADDITION TO OUR LITTLE TEAM.
YES, INDEED.
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.
SURE I AM. HER FAMILY IS OUT OF THE WAY. SHE'S SPENT HER ENTIRE LIFE CHAINED UP IN A BASEMENT WATCHING TELEVISION. SHE'S A BLANK SLATE -- A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR US. A PERFECT SUPER-FREAK TO ADD TO OUR RANKS.
THIS IS WRONG.
UH... UH... UH...
WITH HER PERMISSION, OF COURSE.
WE WOULDN'T FORCE HER TO DO ANYTHING SHE DOESN'T WANT TO.
BUT WE CAN BE PRETTY STRONG PERSUADERS AS YOU KNOW.
SHE'LL JOIN.

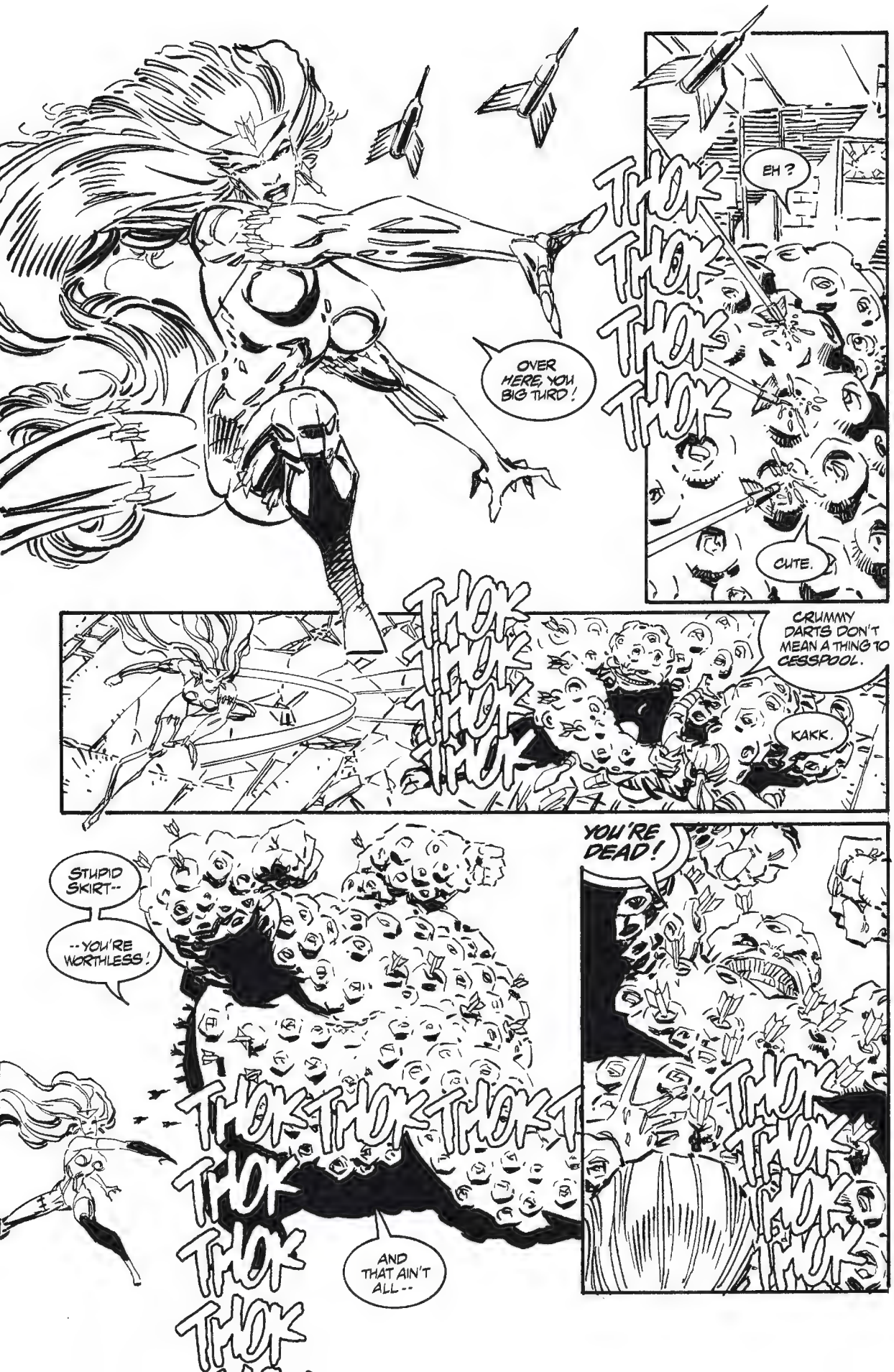
WHY DON'T YOU LIKE ME?
WHY ARE YOU AVOIDING ME?
WHAT DID I DO?
LOOK, AMANDA, IT'S NOTHING TO TAKE PERSONALLY.
I HAVE NOTHING AGAINST YOU.
I SAVED YOUR LIFE AND THAT SEEMS LIKE THE ONLY REASON THAT YOU'RE SO ATTRACTED TO ME. I SAVE A LOT OF LIVES. I WAS JUST DOING MY JOB. IT ISN'T LIKE I HAD A SPECIAL REASON. YOU'RE A VERY PRETTY GIRL BUT I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOU.
YOU COULD GET TO KNOW ME.
YOU'D LIKE ME IF YOU GOT TO KNOW ME.
I DON'T WANT AN APPRECIATIVE RESCUED DAMSEL FAWNING AFTER ME. I SAVE LIVES FOR A LIVING. IT'S NOT GROUNDS FOR A RELATIONSHIP.
THE KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR, DAMSEL IN DISTRESS CRAP ISN'T MY CUP OF TEA.
WE COULD TRY. I'M WILLING TO TRY...!
THE LAST WOMAN I HAD ANY KIND OF A RELATIONSHIP WITH ENDED UP WITH A BULLET IN HER BRAIN.
I'M IN A DANGEROUS PROFESSION. VICIOUS THUGS ARE TRYING TO KILL ME OR ANYBODY CLOSE TO ME ALL THE TIME. I'D RATHER NOT HAVE YOU DEAD. ESPECIALLY AFTER I WENT TO ALL THAT TROUBLE TO RESCUE YOU.
I'M SORRY BUT THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT'S GOT TO BE.
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THAT WAY.
SOME RISKS ARE WORTH TAKING. I AM.

YOU BOTH ARE WELL AWARE OF THE SUPER-FREAK PROBLEM HERE IN CHICAGO.
TO COMBAT IT, I'M TRYING TO PULL TOGETHER A TEAM THAT CAN WORK OUT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. THE SPINEY WOMAN WHO'S BEEN CODE-NAMED "HORRIDUS" IS ALREADY GOING THROUGH THE ACADEMY.
BUT WE NEED MORE THAN THAT. YOU'RE NEEDED ELSEWHERE SOMETIMES AND WE DON'T WANT TO WORK YOU TO DEATH AFTER ALL.
I'D LIKE TO GET A HOLD OF STAR OR--OR MIGHTY MAN! IT WOULD REALLY BE GREAT TO GET HIM! YOU CAME INTO CONTACT WITH THE MAN, DART, ANY IDEA HOW WE COULD REACH HIM?
YOU COULD HAVE AT LEAST BROUGHT SOME HEAVY ARTILLERY!
NO.
YOU MIGHT TRY THE PSYCHIC HOTLINE.
OH, SHUT UP!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS, SMART GUY?
ACTUALLY THERE ARE THESE TWO FREAKS THAT I RAN INTO IN THE UNDERGROUND A COUPLE OF MONTHS BACK.
NAG, NAG, NAG.
I DIDN'T BRING A SWEATER OR MY GALOSHES EITHER.
WHAT IS IT, PHIL?
SOME SUPER-FREAKS ARE GOING AT IT.
SOME KIND OF TROUBLE IN THE UNDERGROUND.
BARBARIC--
HELP!
YOU SET THIS UP, DIDN'T YOU?!
NO, NO-- I SWEAR!

FOLLOW MY LEAD...!
GET BENT.
I KNOW WHAT TO DO.

HRONK!
THEN DO IT!
GAKKK!
WHROPP!
LET HER GO!

NAH! I DON'T THINK SO.
BABALOKICH!
OUCH-- CRAP. YUCK!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, CRATER-FACE!
SSSHZZZLLL


OVER HERE, YOU BIG TURD!
THOK THOK THOK THOK THOK
EH?
CUTE.
THOK THOK THOK THOK
CRUMMY DARTS DON'T MEAN A THING TO CESSPOOL.
KAKK.
STUPID SKIRT--
--YOU'RE WORTHLESS!
THOK THOK THOK THOK THOK THOK
AND THAT AIN'T ALL--
YOU'RE DEAD!
THOK THOK THOK THOK

YOU OKAY?
:COUGH: YEAH...
...I'M FINE.
YOU WERE REALLY IMPRESSIVE TO WATCH, I MUST SAY--
--I LEARNED A LOT.
OH, SHUT UP.
HEY, KIDS...
...LISTEN UP.
THE CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT IS IN AN EXPANSIVE MODE REGARDING SUPER-POWERED TYPES. IF YOU'RE UP FOR IT... SO ARE WE.
REALLY? WOW, THAT WOULD BE COOL.
BUT I DON'T THINK WE CAN...UH... JUST A SEC.
WHAT?
WE CAN'T STAY HIDDEN FOREVER.
I SAY WE GO FOR IT-- OUR CHANCES ARE BETTER IF WE'RE PART OF A GROUP.
ESPECIALLY IF WE'RE WITH THE COPS.

OKAY!
WE'RE IN!
COOL!
BARBARIC, RICOCHET, I'M GLAD YOU TWO HAVE HAVE DECIDED TO GIVE POLICE WORK A SHOT. YOU'LL FIND WE'RE ALL ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY HERE
THAT'S COOL.
OUCH...OUCH... HEY, MAN--EXCESSIVE FORCE.
THERE MUST BE LAWS AGAINST THIS!
OUCH--Y'CAN'T STAB A GUY FER CHRISSAKE.
I'LL SUE!
YEAH, YEAH.
TELL IT TO THE JUDGE, PUS PUSS.
GREAT. JUST GREAT. YOU TWO ARE JUST WHAT WE NEED.
JUST ONE QUESTION...
...HOW OLD ARE YOU?

I KNOW WHEN I AIN'T WANTED.
YOU HANG OUT WITH THESE JERKS IF YOU WANT--I'M TAKING OFF.
I'LL BE BACK FOR DINNER.
BABY!
AW, C'MON!
BOINK
SEE YOU AT EIGHT.
CRAP.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, RED.
SHE'LL COOL OFF.
IS THIS SEAT TAKEN?
OH HEAVENS NO.
ARE YOU GOING TO CHICAGO?
UH... YEAH.
ME TOO.
I'M GOING TO SEE MY LITTLE BOY.
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN SUCH A LONG TIME.
I CAN HARDLY WAIT!
HE'S A POLICEMAN, YOU KNOW.

I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO THE NEWEST ADDITION TO THE CHICAGO POLICE FORCE.
HER NAME IS SHARONA JACKSON, BUT YOU CAN CALL HER...
RAPTURE.

HI.
DRAGON.
I FIGURED THAT.
WHERE DID YOU PICK THIS ONE UP, CAPTAIN STEWART?
POLICE
RICOCHET RAN INTO HER.
THEY STOPPED A PIMP WHO'D SLASHED UP A COUPLE OF GIRLS. SHE'S PURE DYNAMITE!
SHE FIRES BOLTS OF LIGHTNING OUT OF HER HANDS!
SHE'LL BE A GREAT ADDITION TO THE TEAM!
YOU GIVE PRIVATE LESSONS ON BEIN' A SUPER-HERO?
I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.
INTERESTING NAME.
WHY "RAPTURE"?

YOU KEEP LOOKIN' THAT GOOD, YOU JUST MAY FIND OUT.
THANKS FOR THE INTRO, CAPTAIN. IF YOU DON'T MIND, I THINK I'LL LET DRAGON CATCH ME UP ON HOW TO DEAL WITH ALL THOSE NASTY SUPER-FREAKS YOU TOL' ME 'BOUT.
YOU BE GOOD NOW.
YOU'RE EVEN BETTER LOOKIN' THAN YOU ARE ON TV.
BUT YOU'RE SHORTER THAN I THOUGHT.
I HEAR THAT ALL THE TIME-- HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO RESPOND TO THAT?
"I'M SORRY?"
"NO, ACTUALLY. THIS--IS HOW TALL I AM."
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M SUCH A RUNT OR ANYTHING. 5'10" IS AVERAGE HEIGHT-- I'M AVERAGE HEIGHT. THAT'S PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE-- NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT.
IF I WERE SHORTER, MAYBE THERE WOULD BE A CAUSE TO COMPLAIN BUT I'M RIGHT THERE-- AVERAGE HEIGHT. ANYTHING MORE WOULD BE A BONUS.
I CAN ALWAYS GO "HEY, I'M 6'6" AT THE TIP OF THIS THING-- WHAT DO YOU WANT?"
THE FIN IS A BONUS.
I'M NOT COMPLAININ'.
I'LL TAKE YOU ANY WAY I CAN.

MRS. HARRIS?
OPEN UP-- IT'S THE POLICE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG?
WHAT IS IT?
WE'D LIKE TO TALK WITH YOU DOWN AT THE STATION, MA'AM.
IT SEEMS RECORDS INDICATE THAT YOU HAD A LONG PHONE CONVERSATION WITH AN "ARNOLD DIMPLE" JUST BEFORE HE KILLED YOUR DAUGHTER IN OFFICER DRAGON'S APARTMENT.
INVESTIGATORS WOULD LIKE TO QUESTION YOU ABOUT THE NATURE OF THAT CALL.
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.
YOU SHOULD TALK TO THAT FREAK COP OF YOURS--
HE'S THE ONE THAT KILLED MY DAUGHTER.
THE WHOLE MATTER IS UNDER INVESTIGATION, MA'AM. ANYTHING YOU CAN DO TO HELP WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.
IF YOU HAVE ANY EVIDENCE TO SUBSTANTIATE YOUR CLAIM WE'D LIKE TO HEAR ABOUT IT.

I HEAR YOU'VE HOOKED UP WITH THE ANNIHILATORS. BAD NEWS!
NEXT TIME I SEND YOU TO JAIL, DOUBLEHEADER, DO YOURSELF A FAVOR--
--STAY THERE.

WHAT THE...?
IS THAT...?
WELCOME TO THE CHICAGO POLICE FORCE, BOYS AND GIRLS!
NAH. COULDN'T BE.
WE'VE GOT A LOT OF WORK OUT FOR US.
I MUST BE LOSING MY MIND.
POLICE

I'LL BET-- DO WE GET DOUGHNUTS?
I'D LIKE TO EAT SOME DOUGHNUTS-- I DON'T THINK I COULD EAT TOO MANY DOUGHNUTS.
SHUT UP, BARBARIC.
MMMM, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE REST OF YOU... BUT YOU'VE GOT MY FULL ATTENTION, OFFICER DRAGON.
I HOPE YOU PEOPLE KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING.
YOU ALL GOT PUSHED THROUGH THE POLICE ACADEMY FAR TOO QUICKLY FOR MY MONEY. I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT FOR THIS JOB.
YOU'VE GOT THE RIGHT ONE, BABY!
UH HUH!

HOO BOY.
THANKS TO RICOCHET FOR INTRODUCING US TO RAPTURE-- THE NEWEST ADDITION TO OUR SPECIAL FIGHTING UNIT.
MY PLEASURE.
WHEN SHE'S OLD ENOUGH, I'M SURE RICOCHET HERSELF WILL BE A WELCOME ADDITION TO OUR LITTLE FAMILY.
OFFICER DRAGON WAS RIGHT WHEN HE SAID THAT WE'VE GOT OUR WORK CUT OUT FOR US. THERE'S THIS SPLINTER GROUP FROM THE VICIOUS CIRCLE CALLING THEMSELVES THE ANNIHILATORS THAT HAVE BEEN...
FRANK...?
HEY, FRANK-- WAIT UP.
FRANK-- WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT IS IT?
I CAN'T. MILDRED'S SICK-- I'VE GOT TO GO.
I CAN'T TALK, DRAGON-- I JUST CAN'T.
IT'S OBVIOUS THAT YOU'RE IN SOME KIND OF TROUBLE.
TALK TO ME-- I WANT TO HELP.
I'M YOUR FRIEND.

WHAT?!
WHAT'S UP?
CAPTAIN STEWART TELLS ME THAT I CAN'T USE MY DARTS ANYMORE. THAT ZIT-MAN WE BROUGHT IN EARLIER WHO WAS TRYING TO KILL RICOCHET HAS FILED A SUIT ALLEGING EXCESSIVE FORCE.
THROWING DARTS IS WHAT I DO THAT'S MY WHOLE GIG.
WHY DID YOU HIRE DART IN THE FIRST PLACE, CAPTAIN STEWART?
SHE'S NEXT TO USELESS WITHOUT HER DARTS. YOU MIGHT AS WELL HAVE POURED HOWARD NISEMAN INTO SOME TIGHTS AND SENT HIM OUT ON THE TOWN.
I WOULDN'T GO THAT FAR, BUSTER. I'M STILL FAST--STILL AGILE. I'M STILL ONE OF THE BEST DAMN HAND TO HAND COMBATANTS IN THE UNITED STATES.
WELL, UH...
THAT'S WHAT WE NEED.
YOU SON OF A...!

HOW DARE YOU! HOW DARE YOU HAVE YOUR COP FRIENDS INTERROGATE ME! I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG. YOU DID.
THE VERY THOUGHT OF ME DOING ANYTHING TO HURT MY LITTLE GIRL...! YOU KILLED MY DAUGHTER AND YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO COVER YOUR ASS.
HEY, GET A GRIP! I DIDN'T...
I'VE NEVER BEEN SO INSULTED IN ALL MY LIFE.
YOU TOOK HER FROM ME--SEDUCED HER... AND NOW SHE'S DEAD! YOUR FRIENDS DIDN'T PIN A THING ON ME BUT THEY TRIED...
COPS ALWAYS LOOK OUT FOR OTHER COPS.
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?
MRS. HARRIS' DAUGHTER, DEBBIE SPENT THE NIGHT WITH ME AND THE NEXT MORNING WAS SHOT AND KILLED IN MY APARTMENT.
BEFORE THAT HAPPENED, MRS. HARRIS GAVE THE KILLER, ARNOLD DIMPLE, A THIRTY MINUTE LONG PHONE CALL.
MRS. HARRIS WAS JUST NOW QUESTIONED ON THE NATURE OF THAT CALL.
ARNOLD WAS DEBBIE'S EX-BOYFRIEND, IT WAS THOUGHT THAT MRS. HARRIS MAY HAVE SAID SOMETHING TO COERCE THE KID TO COMING OVER GUNNING FOR ME.
AND WHEN DEBBIE ANSWERED THE DOOR INSTEAD OF ME...!
THAT'S AWFUL.
I'M SO SORRY.
WHAT... HAPPENED TO THIS "DIMPLE" FELLOW?
AFTER KILLING DEBBIE, HE BLEW HIS OWN BRAINS OUT.

PROCEED WITH CAUTION.
WE'RE IN *TROUBLE*, OVERLORD.
THE *ANNIHILATORS* ARE CREEPING INTO OUR TERRITORY. AS SOME OF THEIR RANKS FORMERLY BELONGED TO THE VICIOUS CIRCLE, THEY MEAN *BUSINESS*.
DEALING WITH DARLING IS, *FRANKLY*, A BIG...
WASTE OF TIME...
AS FOR YOUR BOY IN THE POLICE STATION... LIEUTENANT FRANK DARLING SIMPLY *DOESN'T* HAVE ENOUGH *POWER* ANY MORE.
DRAGON'S TRUST IN HIM IS *DIMINISHED* DUE TO BEING MISLED. PLUS, DARLING HAS NO TIES TO THE NEW SUPER-POWERED ADDITION TO THE POLICE FORCE. CLEARLY, *CAPTAIN STEWART* IS IN CHARGE OF *THEM*.
YOU CAN THREATEN DARLING ALL YOU *WANT* BE HE'S NO LONGER IN A POSITION WHERE HE CAN MAKE *DECISIONS* THAT WE CAN *BENEFIT* FROM.
KRAKADOOM!
SKULLFACE... SWEEP UP.
S...SURE. NO PROBLEM.

EEYOW!!
FRAZZmmAKKK!
VERY GOOD, HORRIDUS.
VERY QUICK.
BUT YOU LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.
YIPE!
AND THAT'S NOT A GOOD IDEA.
OH MY!

THAT WASN'T VERY NICE, RAPTURE!
NEITHER IS THIS!
BARBARIC!
BOOM!
KRI
KAK
OH...
...MY...
...GOD!!

K-RAK-KAK-KA-
DOOM!
ARE YOU OKAY?
YOU HEAR ME COMPLAINING, OFFICER?
THIS IS AN EXERCISE, DIM-BULB!
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO KILL HER FOR CHRIST'S SAKE!
THAT'S NOT THE POINT, BARBARIC. RAPTURE WAS...
BOEEP BOEEP BOEEP
CRAP.
WHAT ARE YOU... SOME KIND OF IDIOT?!
I'VE GOT TO GO.
SHOULD WE...?
HEY, I'M SORRY, OKAY?
SHE HURT ME FIRST.
NO.

POLICE
HE'S NOT HERE, I TELL YOU.
HE'S PROBABLY OFF WITH THE REST OF FREAK FORCE.
OFFICER DRAGON HAS BEEN SPENDING A LOT OF TIME TRYING TO GET THE NEW GUYS UP TO SPEED.
THEY'RE PROBABLY IN THE UNDERGROUND-- THEY PRACTICE THERE A LOT.
IT'S KIND OF DANGEROUS THOUGH-- I WOULDN'T RECOMMEND GOING DOWN THERE, MRS...
WHAT DID YOU SAY YOUR NAME WAS?
EMILY SCHWARTZBLATT.
AND I CAME HERE ALL THE WAY FROM KANSAS CITY TO SEE OFFICER DRAGON-- MY LITTLE BOY, RODNEY.

KOOOOM!!!
YOUR WIFE CALLED.
YOU AND I HAVE TO TALK.
NOW.
OKAY.

I -- I'M BEING BLACKMAILED. SKULLFACE FROM THE VICIOUS CIRCLE HAS THREATENED ME -- AND MY WIFE.
THEY BROKE MILDRED'S LEG FOR GOD'S SAKE.
BUT IT'S REALLY MY FAULT.
ALL MY FAULT.
I'VE KEPT ALL THIS BOTTLED UP INSIDE... IT... IT'S TIME I TOLD SOMEBODY...! PLEASE TRY TO UNDERSTAND...!
I MET YOU IN THE HOSPITAL AFTER YOU WERE FOUND ALIVE IN A BURNING FIELD. YOU WERE AN AMNESIAC SUPER FREAK AND I WAS DETERMINED THAT YOU WOULDN'T FALL INTO THE WRONG HANDS.
I GOT YOU A JOB AT MY COUSIN FRED'S WAREHOUSE. BUT WITH THE CITY'S PROBLEMS GETTING WORSE, WHAT I REALLY WANTED... WAS YOU ON THE POLICE FORCE -- YOU WOULDN'T JOIN.
I THOUGHT THAT IF YOU SAW HOW BAD THINGS HAD GOTTEN THAT YOU MIGHT CHANGE YOUR MIND AND HELP US. I HAD THE BEST INTENTIONS. I DIDN'T MEAN FOR ANYBODY TO BE HURT... OH GOD...
IN DESPERATION, I ARRANGED FOR FREAKS TO THREATEN FRED, FIGURING THAT IF YOU SAW THEIR THREAT FIRSTHAND YOU MIGHT BE SWAYED TO JOIN THE FORCE. THAT'S WHEN MY PLANS WENT WRONG... HORRIBLY WRONG...
THE BAD GUYS KILLED FRED -- THEY BLEW UP HIS WAREHOUSE. YOU JOINED THE FORCE ALL RIGHT BUT ONLY BECAUSE I MANIPULATED YOU. ONLY BECAUSE WHAT I'D GIVEN YOU -- WAS TAKEN AWAY.
SKULLFACE DISCOVERED MY SCHEME. THREATENED TO EXPOSE ME... THE POSSIBILITY OF YOU LEAVING THE FORCE AND ME LOSING MY JOB WAS ENOUGH. THEY'VE BEEN WATCHING ME EVER SINCE -- GUIDING MY EVERY MOVE.
THEY FORCED ME TO STEER YOU AWAY FROM ANY VICIOUS CIRCLE ACTIVITIES BUT AS THEIR PLANS GOT BOLDER THEIR THREATS ESCALATED.
MY MISLEADING YOU BECAME EVIDENCE AGAINST ME... NOW IT'S PHYSICAL THREATS AGAINST ME AND MILDRED...
ONLY NOW, THEY WANT ME TO DO THINGS ABOUT FREAK FORCE AND I'M NOT IN ANY POSITION TO DO THAT... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

I'M NOT GOING TO LEAVE THE FORCE. IT'S ALL I'VE GOT.
BUT YOU'RE IN TROUBLE... BIG TROUBLE.
YOU DON'T HAVE MANY OPTIONS-- NOT GOOD ONES ANYWAY.
YOU'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF TOWN.
IT'S GONE TOO FAR.
THINGS HAVE GOTTEN TOO OUT OF HAND.
THE BAD GUYS HAVE TOO MUCH ON YOU.
YOU CAN'T IGNORE THAT. YOUR CAREER IS ALREADY OVER. MY BEST ADVICE WOULD BE TO VANISH.
BE REALISTIC. IF YOU STAY, THEY'LL FIND A WAY TO KILL YOU-- PERIOD.
DON'T BE STUPID. YOU'VE SCREWED UP TOO MUCH ALREADY. THE BAD GUYS HAVE TOO MUCH DAMAGING EVIDENCE.
YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO LOSE.
DAMN.

HOW COULD I LET THIS HAPPEN? HOW COULD I LET THINGS GET SO OUT OF CONTROL?
I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU.
I SHOULD HAVE. INSTEAD, I LET MYSELF GET CAUGHT UP IN THIS WHOLE MESS AND NOW THERE'S NO WAY OUT. MILDRED'S BEEN HURT-- OUR APARTMENT'S BEEN DESTROYED.
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
JESUS-- WHAT THE HELL ARE WE GOING TO DO?
MILDRED'S SAFE--SHE GOT OUT AND CALLED ME WHEN THE CREEP SHOWED UP.
I'LL DO WHATEVER I CAN TO HELP, FRANK.
YOU'RE STILL MY BEST FRIEND.
NOTHING CAN CHANGE THAT.

THERE YOU ARE.
WE WERE GOING TO START WITHOUT YOU.
WE'VE TRACKED THE ANNIHILATORS TO THEIR LAIR.
YOU LOOK LIKE CRAP.
BAD DAY AT THE OFFICE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
LET'S MOVE.
THINGS ARE GOING AS PLANNED. SOON, OVERLORD AND THE VICIOUS CIRCLE WILL FALL...
... AND CHICAGO WILL BE OURS!

POLICE!
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
KH!
HA HA HA!!
LIKE HELL!
KILL THEM!

SEE HOW NICELY IT ALL WORKS OUT?
THE COPS ARE DOING THE WORK FOR YOU!
I LEAD THEM RIGHT TO THE ANNIHILATORS' HIDEOUT. CYBERFACE AND HIS RIVAL GANG ARE AS GOOD AS HISTORY!
RIVAL?
NO ONE RIVALS OVERLORD!
THE ANNIHILATORS ARE A FEEBLE JOKE--NOTHING MORE.
=KAK!=
BUT CYBERFACE KNOWS ME.
HE KNOWS THE MAN BEHIND MY MASK.
AND THAT KNOWLEDGE MAY END UP IN THE HANDS OF THE CHICAGO POLICE.
PRAY IT DOESN'T, ASSASSIN...
...OR YOU WILL ENDURE A LONG, AGONIZING DEATH.

CHRIS VANTAGE, THE MAN KNOWN AS THE SHREW, WAS ACQUITTED OF FIRST DEGREE MURDER CHARGES WHEN THE JURY RETURNED A VERDICT OF INNOCENT DUE TO TEMPORARY INSANITY.

THE JURY WAS CONVINCED THAT THE LEECH-LIKE CREATURE ON THE BACK OF HIS NECK CAUSED HIM TO TEMPORARILY LOSE HIS SANITY.

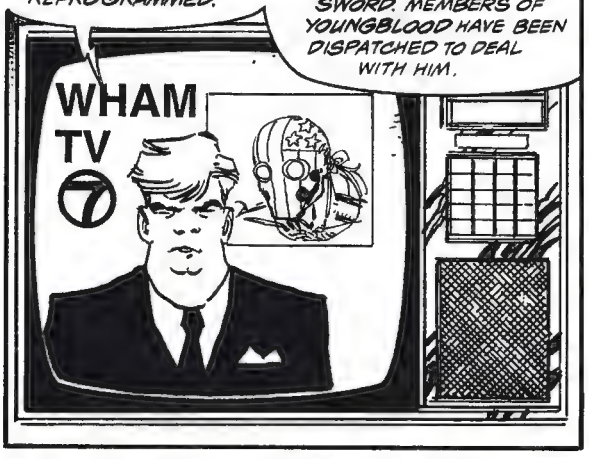
MR. VANTAGE SAYS THAT HE HOPES TO RETURN TO NORMAL LIFE. REPORTS INDICATE MR. VANTAGE HAS BEEN HOMELESS FOR THE PAST SEVEN YEARS.

AN UNIDENTIFIED ALIEN LEFT AT THE CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT BY THE SUPERHERO SUPREME IS STILL IN POLICE CUSTODY.

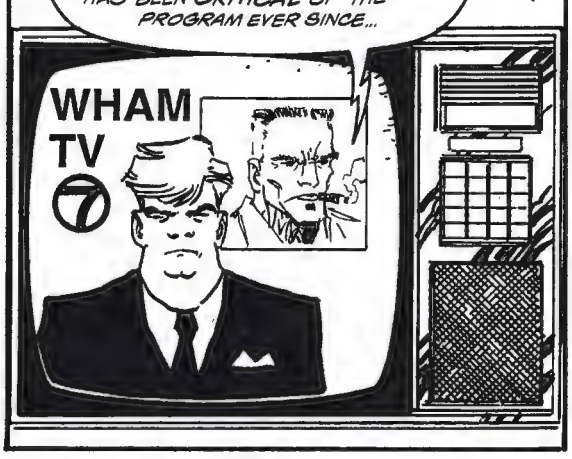
THE PUBLIC DEFENDER IS IS TRYING TO FREE THE ALIEN CLAIMING HE'S DONE NOTHING WRONG, BUT THE ALIEN IS ALLEGED TO HAVE DESTROYED SEVERAL CHICAGO BUILDINGS WHILE BATTLING SUPREME.

SUPERPATRIOT HAS ATTACKED THE PENTAGON. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CONTEND THAT HE MUST HAVE BEEN REPROGRAMMED.

HIS COSTUME HAS BEEN ALTERED TO INCLUDE THE SYMBOL OF THE TERRORIST ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS THE COVENANT OF THE SWORD. MEMBERS OF YOUNGBLOOD HAVE BEEN DISPATCHED TO DEAL WITH HIM.

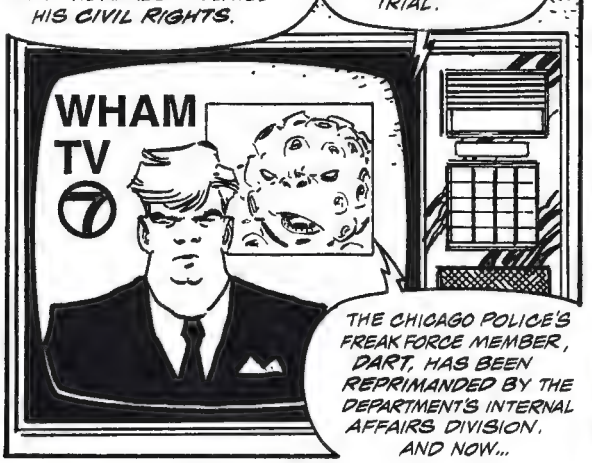


R. RICHARD RICHARDS, PUBLISHER OF THE CHICAGO VOICE HAS WRITTEN ANOTHER ARTICLE CONDEMNING THE CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT'S "FREAK FORCE" PROGRAM. RICHARDS HAS BEEN CRITICAL OF THE PROGRAM EVER SINCE...



PETE DAVIDSON, THE MUTANT KNOWN AS CESSPOOL IS SUING THE CITY FOR TWO MILLION DOLLARS CLAIMING POLICE BRUTALITY AND THAT THE ARREST VIOLATED HIS CIVIL RIGHTS.

DAVIDSON WAS ARRESTED NEARLY TWO MONTHS AGO AND IS IN POLICE CUSTODY AWAITING TRIAL.



THE CHICAGO POLICE'S FREAK FORCE MEMBER, DART, HAS BEEN REPRIMANDED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION. AND NOW...

THIS JUSTIN, A RIOT IS IN PROGRESS. WE TAKE YOU NOW TO OUR REPORTER ON THE SPOT, SAM HAZE.

THE GROUP NAMED THE ANNIHILATORS IS IN THE MIDST OF A FREE-FOR-ALL WITH THE CHICAGO POLICE'S OWN FREAK FORCE! THINGS GOT HEATED UP WHEN...

HUOKK!
UNNGH!
HEEAUGH!
WHAMM!
DON'T GIVE ME THAT CRAP!

YOU'LL NEVER TAKE US ALIVE!

FINE BY ME!

KRUSH

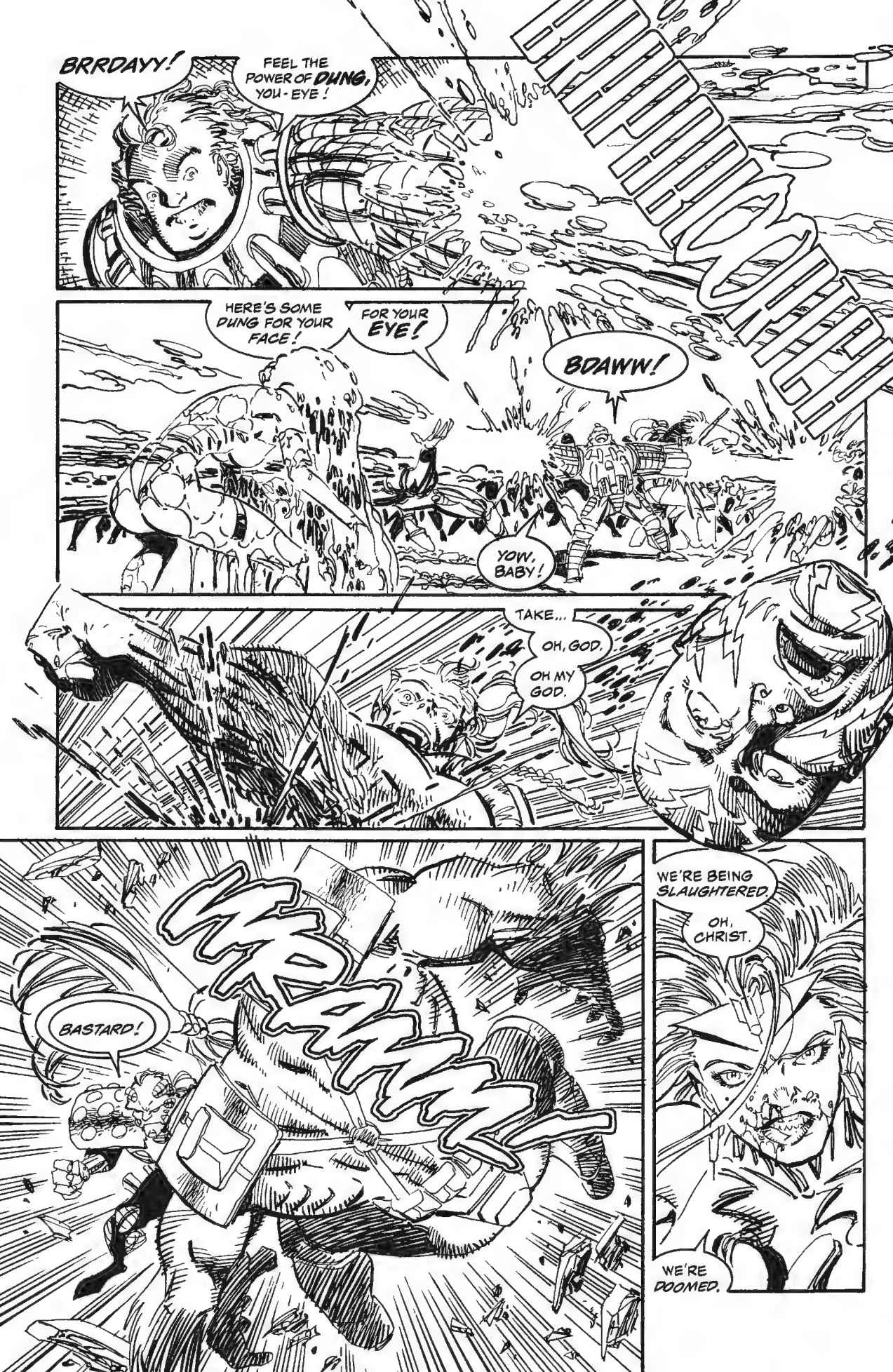
YOU'RE IN OVER YOUR HEADS, CHILDREN.

YOU'RE SCREWED!

WHOOP!
DAMN.
OW! CRAP.
THIS IS RIDICULOUS!
AW, TO HELL WITH IT!
TAKE THIS, BOZO!
GAKK!
YEAH, YEAH, TELL ME ABOUT IT.
I'M PRETTY FED UP WITH ALL OF THESE DAMN REGULATIONS.
I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO USE MY DARTS ANYMORE.
EXCESSIVE FORCE, DON'T YOU KNOW.
YEAH, RIGHT.
IF THAT'S THE CASE... WHAT WOULD THEY CALL THIS?
HUNGHH!
OR THIS!
CRUSH!
YEAH!

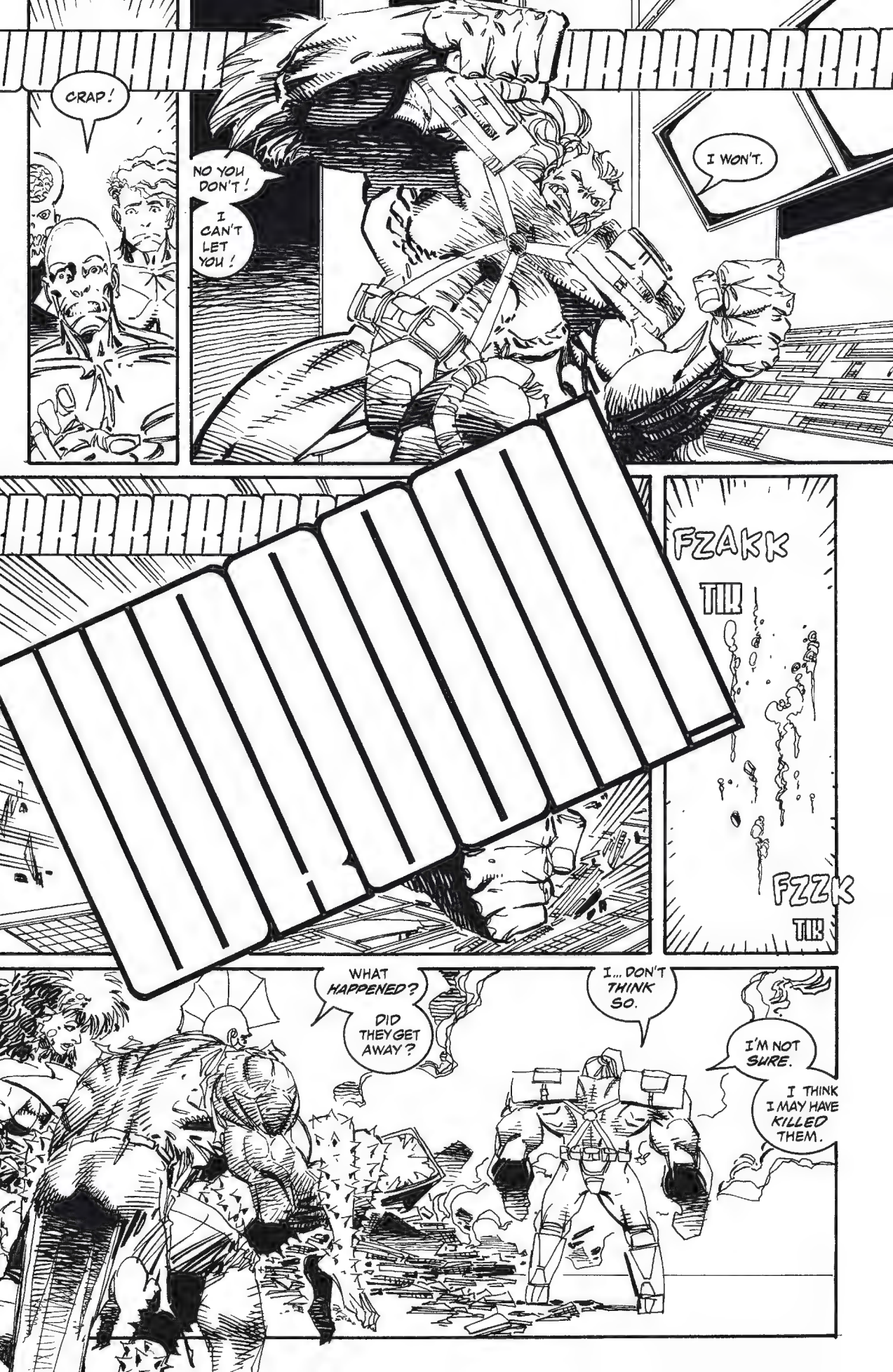
POOR BABY.
DID I HURT YOU?
CHRIST.
YOU'RE PATHETIC.
WHAM!
WHAT THE HELL...?
GOT YOU!
FEEL YOURSELF SLOWING.
STOPPING.
YOU'RE MINE! MINDWARP IS IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT.
UNHH!
TO COMMAND AS I PLEASE.
SON OF A...
UNNPHFF!
BLAM!
HERE'S BLOOD IN YOUR EYE!
JERK!

ZZRA-
ZZZAK
HANDS OFF THE MERCHANDISE, CREEP.
THAT DOES IT -- YOU'RE TOAST!
...DID WELL AGAINST... WIMP.
... CHEW ON... SHRAPNEL WITCH!
OH GOD!
PARDON ME, TOOTS.
MIND IF I HAVE THIS DANCE?
OH MY.
I'M NOT READY FOR THIS
I'M REALLY NOT.
THAK!
THAK!
THAK!
THAK!
THAK!
THAK!
GET READY.


BRRDAYY!
FEEL THE POWER OF DUNG, YOU-EYE!
HERE'S SOME DUNG FOR YOUR FACE!
FOR YOUR EYE!
BDAWW!
YOW, BABY!
TAKE...
OH, GOD.
OH MY GOD.
BASTARD!
WE'RE BEING SLAUGHTERED.
OH, CHRIST.
WE'RE DOOMED.

YOW! MIGHTY MAN!
I THOUGHT HE WENT THE BIG A-WAY!

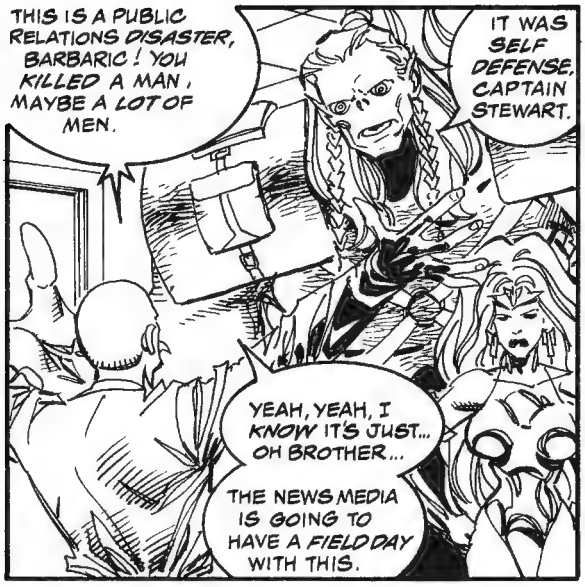
JESUS.
HE REALLY IS ALIVE.
YEAH... HE IS.
YOU CAN ASK HIM ABOUT ELVIS IF YOU WANT TO.
JERK.
OH DEYY!
THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!
AW NO!
NOT AFTER ALL THIS!
GO, GO, GO!
PREPARE TRANSPORTER.
ON LINE!
LET'S GO!


CRAP!
NO YOU DON'T!
I CAN'T LET YOU!
I WON'T.
FZAKK
TIK
FZZK
TIK
WHAT HAPPENED?
DID THEY GET AWAY?
I... DON'T THINK SO.
I'M NOT SURE.
I THINK I MAY HAVE KILLED THEM.

YOU'LL WANT TO TALK TO THIS ONE.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING ALIVE?
YOU DIED-- REMEMBER?
MIGHTY MAN?
WHOA!
YOU SAVED OUR BUTTS--WITHOUT BREATHING HARD!
WHY THE HELL DIDN'T YOU TAKE ON THE BAD GUYS WHEN YOU SHOWED UP AT THAT JAIL BREAK A FEW MONTHS BACK? YOU JUST LET THEM ESCAPE!
REST ASSURED -- IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN. THINGS HAVE BEEN VERY CONFUSING. I'M JUST GETTING USED TO UH... COMING BACK TO LIFE. IN MANY WAYS THIS IS ALL NEW TO ME.
SORRY ABOUT ALL THAT.
I'M BACK NOW -- I'LL BE FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT. I WAS GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE AND I'M GOING TO USE IT. UH HUH. I'M BACK.
FORGIVE ME?
HORRIDUS TOOK QUITE A BEATING IN THAT LITTLE FIASCO.
HOW'S SHE DOING?
SHE'S... RECOVERING. IT'LL TAKE HER A WHILE TO HEAL, DART.
BUT SHE SHOULD BE FINE.
I SUSPECT SHE'LL FARE BETTER THAN HER BED SHEETS.

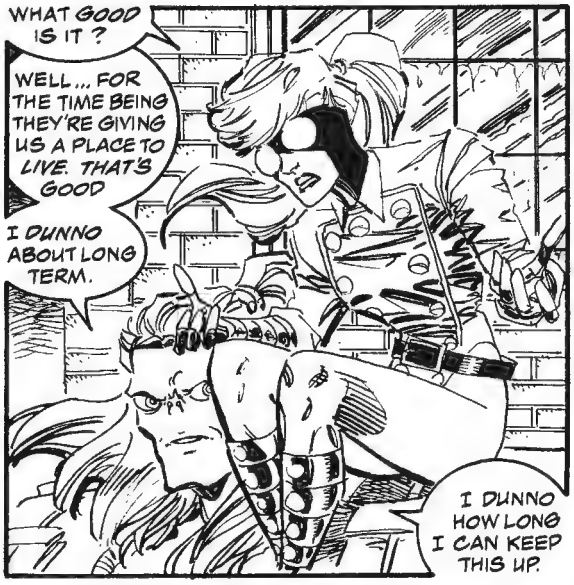
HEY, DRAGON...
I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO SOMEONE.
LOOK LADY, I DON'T MEAN TO BE RUDE...
BUT WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
I'M... EMILY SCHWARTZBLATT. YOUR... MOTHER. OH RODNEY, YOU MUST RECOGNIZE ME-- YOUR OWN MOTHER.
I DON'T.
NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...
I'VE GOT PICTURES.

YOU SEE?
THAT'S YOU, RODNEY.
I ADMIT IT'S A PRETTY FAIR LIKENESS.
BUT I DON'T REMEMBER ANY OF THIS.
IT DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT TO ME.
I'M SORRY.
YOU MUST REMEMBER.
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE 1986 WHEN...
LOOK, I'M SORRY YOU CAN'T FIND YOUR SON.
TALK TO THE OTHER COPS.
I'D LIKE TO HELP YOU, LADY, BUT I'M TOO BUSY.
I WISH YOU WELL.
BUT I... RODNEY, PLEASE LISTEN TO ME...
I'M NOT YOUR SON, MRS. SCHWARTZBLATT.
NO...
...YOU'RE NOT.
NOT ANY MORE.


THIS IS A PUBLIC RELATIONS DISASTER, BARBARIC! YOU KILLED A MAN, MAYBE A LOT OF MEN.
IT WAS SELF DEFENSE, CAPTAIN STEWART.
YEAH, YEAH, I KNOW IT'S JUST... OH BROTHER...
THE NEWS MEDIA IS GOING TO HAVE A FIELD DAY WITH THIS.

AND AS FOR YOU... YOU'VE BEEN HERE LONGER, DART, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO KNOW BETTER.
YOU'VE GOT TO STOP IMPALING PEOPLE WITH DARTS. HAVEN'T YOU PAID ANY ATTENTION?
WE LOOK LIKE IDIOTS. CHRIST.
AND YOUR COSTUME IS TOO DISTRACTING.
THAT'S AN ADVANTAGE.

WE CAN'T BE TOGETHER-- PLUS YOU'VE GOT TO PUT UP WITH ALL THAT GRIEF. ARE YOU SURE THIS IS WORTH IT?
THEY RUSH ME THROUGH TRAINING THEN BITCH THAT I AIN'T TRAINED ENOUGH.
POLIC

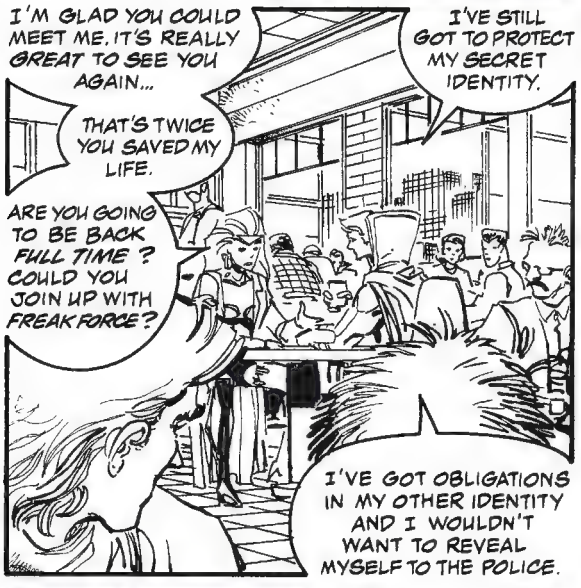

WHAT GOOD IS IT?
WELL... FOR THE TIME BEING THEY'RE GIVING US A PLACE TO LIVE. THAT'S GOOD
I DUNNO ABOUT LONG TERM.
I DUNNO HOW LONG I CAN KEEP THIS UP.

I SHOULD HAVE MADE MORE OF AN EFFORT TO STOP CAPTAIN STEWART. HORRIDUS WAS PRACTICALLY FORCED TO JOIN... SHE'S NOWHERE NEAR READY FOR THIS.
SHE'S BARELY ABLE TO COPE WITH PEOPLE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
THIS IS INVITING DISASTER.

YEAH.
I'M NOT SURE THAT I'M READY, FOR THAT MATTER...

LOOK AT HIM.
BIG OX.

HE WON'T GET OUT THIS TIME.
AND IF HE DOES... OFFICER DRAGON WILL SHUT HIM DOWN.
YEAH... POW! IT'S ALL OVER-- ONE PUNCH.


I'M GLAD YOU COULD MEET ME. IT'S REALLY GREAT TO SEE YOU AGAIN...
I'VE STILL GOT TO PROTECT MY SECRET IDENTITY.
THAT'S TWICE YOU SAVED MY LIFE.
ARE YOU GOING TO BE BACK FULL TIME? COULD YOU JOIN UP WITH FREAK FORCE?
I'VE GOT OBLIGATIONS IN MY OTHER IDENTITY AND I WOULDN'T WANT TO REVEAL MYSELF TO THE POLICE.

YOU'RE NOT ROBERT BERMAN, ARE YOU?
NO. BUT THAT MUSTN'T BE KNOWN. I FEEL LIKE I CAN TRUST YOU, DART.
I WOULD LIKE TO WORK WITH YOU. I THINK I COULD LEARN A LOT.
BUT I CAN'T JOIN THE FORCE.

CYBERFACE, YOU'RE IN DEEP DOO-DOO.
THE ANNIHILATORS ARE DONE FOR AND WE'VE GOT ENOUGH ON YOU TO KEEP YOU IN JAIL FOREVER.
BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANT. I THINK YOU'RE THE WORST KIND OF SCUM BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT MORE THAN YOU LOCKED UP.
AND THAT'S OVERLORD AND THE VICIOUS CIRCLE. TESTIFY AND YOU CAN WALK... IT'S THAT SIMPLE.

I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.

NEW RULES FROM THE TOP BRASS... I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO START WEARING POLICE UNIFORMS.
THIS ISN'T YOUNGBLOOD AFTER ALL.
WHAT?
NO WAY.
I CAN'T FIGHT LIKE THAT!

LUG AROUND A FAT BELT AND WEAR RESTRICTIVE CLOTHING?
I DON'T THINK SO.
I CAN'T FIGHT IN FULL POLICE GEAR, THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
I NEED TO MOVE. HORRIDUS WILL RUIN HERS IN TWO SECONDS.
GET STUFFED!

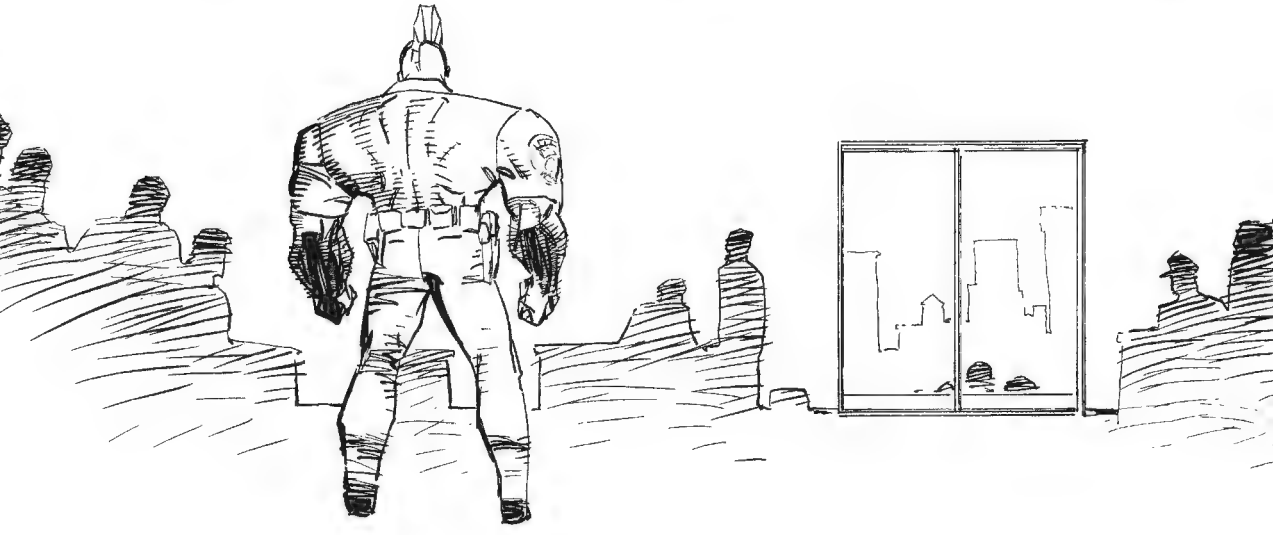
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT.
I DON'T MAKE THE RULES!
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE IN THE MATTER.
IT'S NOT MY IDEA.

AND I CAN'T USE MY DARTS ANYMORE. THE SITUATION HAS GOTTEN OUT OF HAND.
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE REST OF THE TEAM, BUT I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS.
IF I HAVE TO FILL OUT ONE MORE POLICE REPORT, I'LL...
SETTLE DOWN, DART.
THERE'S GOT TO BE A BETTER SOLUTION. IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO HAVE THIS WHOLE THING FALL APART.

YEAH, WELL IT MAY BE TOO LATE FOR...
OH!
UH... HI.
AM I INTERRUPTING ANYTHING?

THERE YOU ARE!
LISTEN, FRANK, I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT YOUR DILEMMA AND I THINK I'VE GOT A SOLUTION THAT MIGHT...
FRANK?
ARE YOU OKAY?
NO.
NO, I'M NOT.
SHE'S GONE, DRAGON.
MILDRED LEFT ME.
WHAT?
YOU CAN'T QUIT!
LIKE HELL WE CAN'T.
THERE'S NO USE TRYING TO KID ANYBODY. THIS SIMPLY ISN'T WORKING.
I CAN'T DO MY JOB EFFECTIVELY LIKE THIS...IT'S SILLY-- IT'S LUDICROUS.
THE REST OF THE GANG FEELS THE SAME.
WE'LL STILL FIGHT CRIME, BUT NOT LIKE THIS.
WE'RE LEAVING.

YOU'RE REALLY GOING, HUH?
YUP.
DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY.
WE JUST CAN'T TAKE ALL OF THE RESTRICTIONS.
WHERE WILL YOU GO? WHAT WILL YOU DO?
WE'LL MANAGE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT US. HELL, I FOUGHT CRIME IN DETROIT FOR YEARS, I CAN DO THE SAME HERE.
YOU HOLD DOWN THE FORT. YOU'RE GOOD AT IT.
YOU EVER NEED US--JUST WHISTLE.
I'LL BE IN TOUCH, HON'.
IT'S BEEN GREAT WORKING WITH YOU, DUDE.
LATER.



I HEARD ABOUT FREAK FORCE-- I'M SORRY.
YOU MUST BE REALLY DISAPPOINTED.
YOU SPENT A LOT OF TIME TRAINING THEM-- TRYING TO GET THEM UP TO SPEED.

I HAVEN'T SEEN MUCH OF YOU.
YEAH.
SORRY ABOUT THAT, ALEX. I DIDN'T MEAN TO SHUT YOU OUT.
GUESS I WAS A LITTLE TOO FOCUSED. IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.

AW HELL.
I MISSED YOU, YOU BIG LUG. IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK.

CYBERFACE TALKED AND WE'RE GETTING ALL KINDS OF GOODIES.
EVERYTHING WE NEED.
NAMES...PLACES... DATES...
WE'LL HAVE A WARRANT FOR OVERLORD'S ARREST BEFORE YOU KNOW IT.
THIS MAY BE IT, DRAGON.
IT'S MY ONLY HOPE OF GETTING OUT OF THIS ALIVE.
IT'S THE ONLY HOPE FOR MILDRED AND ME PUTTING OUR LIVES BACK TOGETHER.
WE'VE GOT TO DO IT, DRAGON.
YOU AND ME, PAL.
AT LAST...
...WE CAN FINALLY NAIL THAT BASTARD.

THINGS HAVE GOTTEN COMPLICATED.
IN THE BEGINNING, LT. FRANK DARLING GOT ME A JOB WORKING FOR HIS COUSIN, FRED, TO KEEP ME OUT OF TROUBLE.
THINGS WENT FROM BAD TO WORSE IN CHICAGO, AND FRANK TRIED TO GET ME TO JOIN THE POLICE FORCE.
I WOULDN'T.
HE THOUGHT IF I SAW WHAT THEY WERE UP AGAINST, FIRST HAND, THAT I'D RECONSIDER, SO HE ARRANGED FOR THE BAD GUYS TO SHAKE UP FRED.
I STOPPED THEM, THEY BLEW UP FRED'S WAREHOUSE.
HE DIED.
I JOINED.
FRANK'S SCHEME WAS DISCOVERED BY CHICAGO'S MOST POWERFUL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION, THE VICIOUS CIRCLE.
THEIR LEADER OVERLORD FORCED FRANK TO MISDIRECT ME-- TO KEEP ME OUT OF THEIR HAIR.
THEIR THREATS ESCALATED. THEY BROKE HIS WIFE'S LEG.
SHE LEFT.
I TOLD FRANK THAT THE BAD GUYS HAD TOO MUCH ON HIM, IF THEY TALKED HIS CAREER WOULD BE OVER.
IF HE TALKED, HE'D BE DEAD.
IN A BATTLE WITH A RIVAL GANG, CYBERFACE, AN OLD PARTNER OF OVERLORD'S WAS CAPTURED. WE CUT A DEAL. NOW WE'VE GOT A WARRANT FOR OVERLORD'S ARREST.
FRANK WANTED TO BE THERE. HE WANTED TO COME ALONG. HIS CAREER WAS AS GOOD AS OVER AND HE WANTED TO GO OUT WITH A BANG. MOSTLY, HE WANTED TO SEE ME KICK OVERLORD'S BUTT.
I THOUGHT IT WAS A REALLY BAD IDEA. .

WE MEET AT LAST.
WE'VE GOT A WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST, OVERLORD.
DON'T MAKE ANY SUDDEN MOVES.
PUT YOUR HANDS BEHIND YOUR HEAD AND FACE THE WALL.
NOW!

I'LL DO NOTHING OF THE SORT.
DO YOU HONESTLY EXPECT ME TO SIMPLY SURRENDER LIKE SOME COMMON CRIMINAL?
RIDICULOUS.
I RUN THIS CITY. IT BELONGS TO ME. THE ONLY REASON I'VE ALLOWED YOU TO LIVE THIS LONG IS YOUR SILLY ANTICS AMUSED ME.
YOU ARE IN MY DOMAIN.
I SUGGEST YOU LEAVE OR FACE MY WRATH.
FAT CHANCE, CREEP.
YOU'RE COMING WITH US.

SO BE IT.

JESUS!

THAT DOES IT!
YOU MAY BE THE BIG MAN AROUND HERE.
YOU MAY CALL THE SHOTS AND HAVE PEOPLE COWERING IN FEAR.
YOU MAY THINK THAT YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH KILLING A MAN -- THAT LIFE DOESN'T MATTER.
BUT YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH KILLING THIS MAN.
IT MATTERS TO ME!
YOU KILLED MY BEST FRIEND--
AND FOR THAT--
YOU'RE GOING TO PAY!

MUSCLEBOUND CRETIN.
I TIRE OF YOUR INTERFERENCE WITH MY AFFAIRS.
THIS GAME NO LONGER HOLDS MY INTEREST.
IT'S TIME THAT IT ENDED.

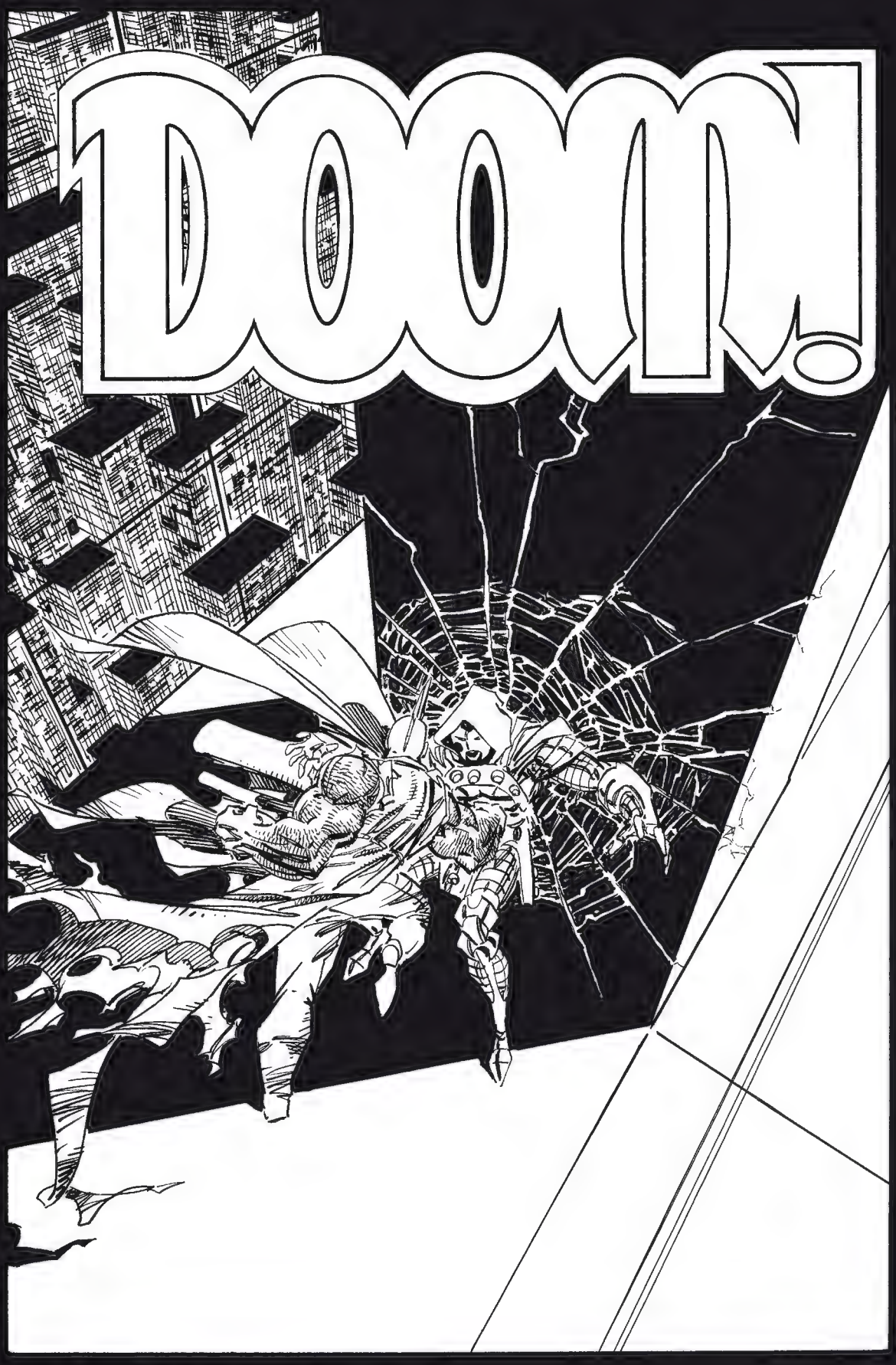
SKRA-RA-BADOOOM!!

HE'S DEAD!
CYBERFACE IS DEAD!!
SOMEHOW HIS FOOD GOT POISONED--
THEY GOT TO HIM, SOMEHOW THE VICIOUS CIRCLE GOT TO HIM.
HE'S DEAD--
OH GOD..
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

I'M THE MEANEST SON OF A BITCH IN THIS TOWN.
NO FREAK CAN TAKE THAT AWAY FROM ME.
DID YOU REALLY THINK THAT YOU STOOD A CHANCE AGAINST ME?
I COMMAND THE VICIOUS CIRCLE FOR A REASON.
WRAKAWOOOM!!

BRAKK
Boom

MAYBE YOU ARE SOME KIND OF TOUGH GUY.
MAYBE I UNDERESTIMATED YOU.
MAYBE I DIDN'T COME PREPARED OR MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE JUST BLOWN UP THE WHOLE BLOODY BUILDING.
I DON'T CARE.
YOU KILLED FRANK--AND THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP ME.

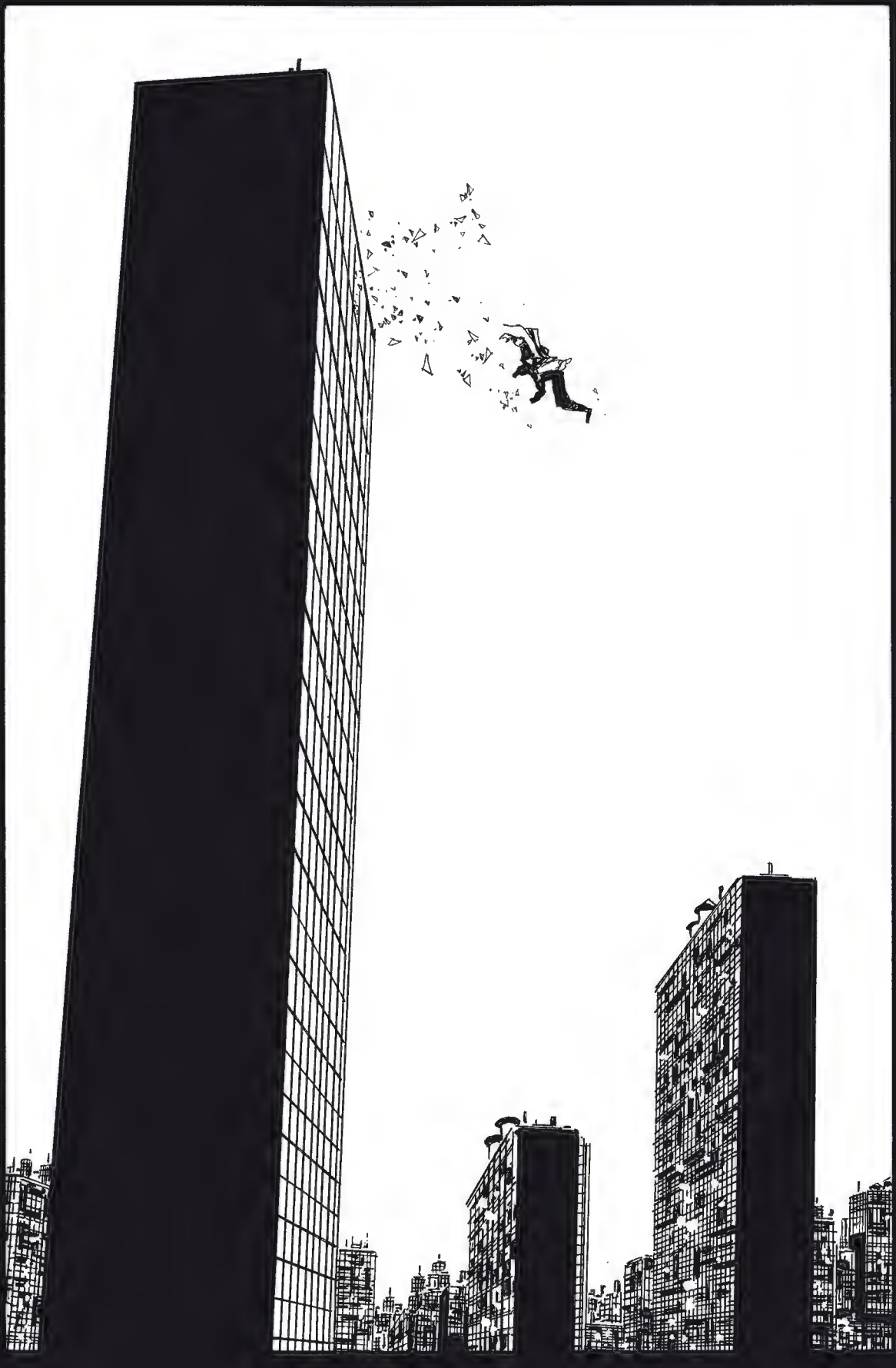

DOOM!

YOU'VE HELD CHICAGO IN YOUR GRASP FOR TOO LONG.
YOUR REIGN OF TERROR IS OVER.
AS OF NOW!!

I THINK NOT.
JESUS!

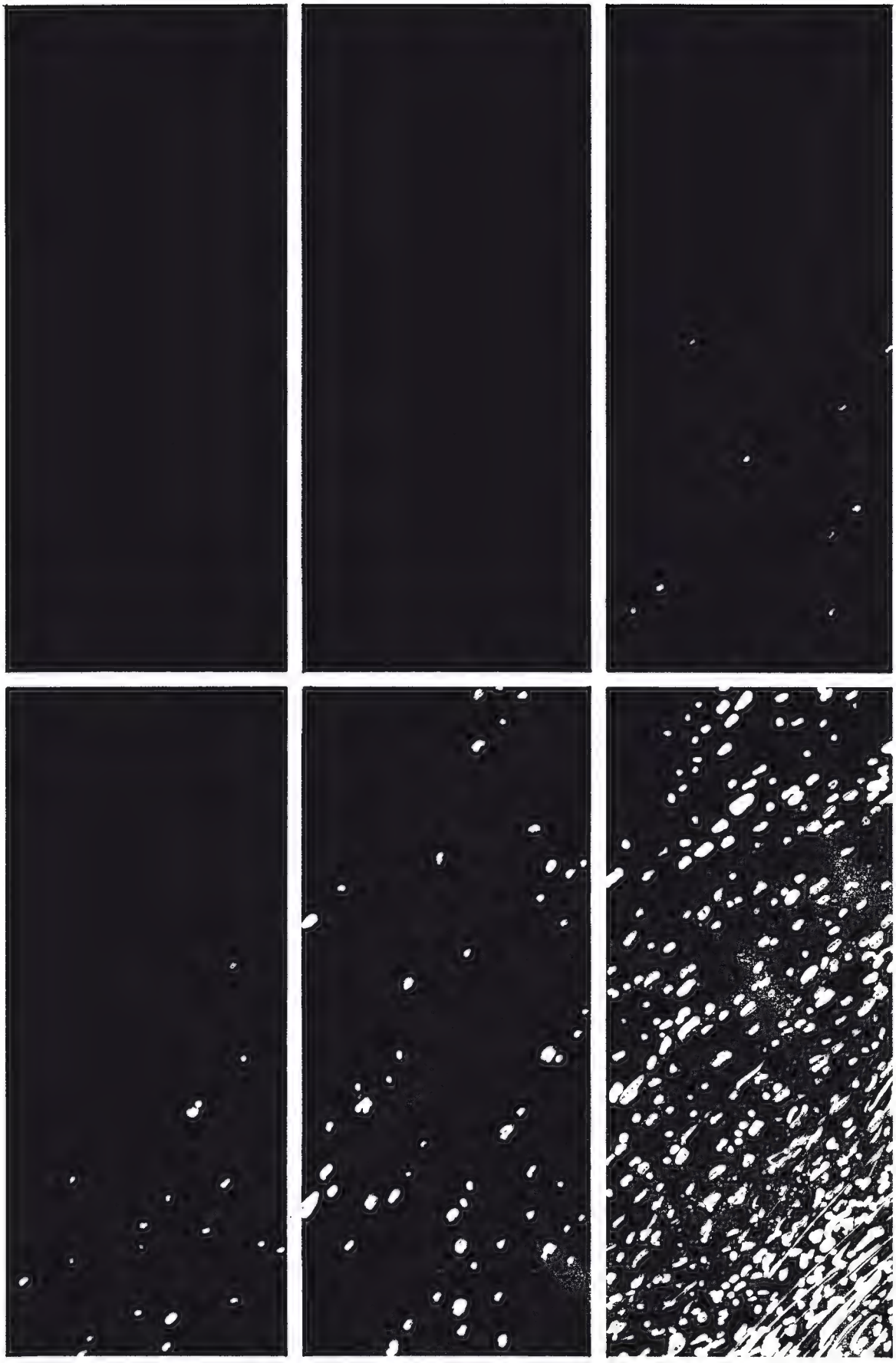
HUNNGH!

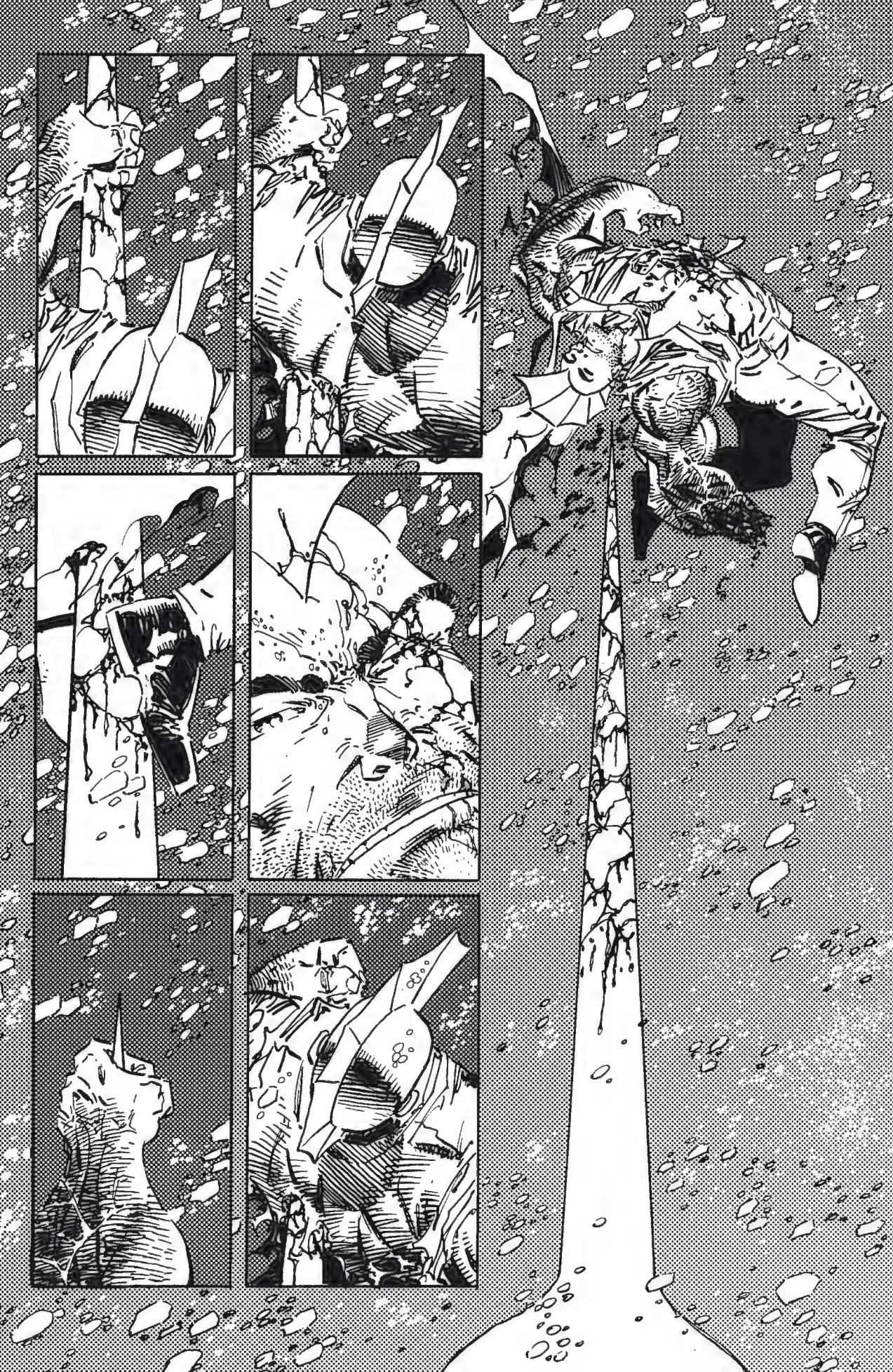
WRAMMMM!!
CRASH
IT'S OVER, FOOL!
TOMORROW MORNING THEY'LL FIND WHAT'S LEFT OF YOU AND I'LL BE BACK TO RUNNING THIS TOWN AS I HAVE FOR YEARS.
SOON, YOU'LL BE A DISTANT MEMORY.
THE ONLY USEFUL THING YOU'LL HAVE ACCOMPLISHED IS SERVING AS A WARNING TO A OTHER INSECTS THAT I AM NOT TO BE ANNOYED.
GOODBYE, DRAGON.

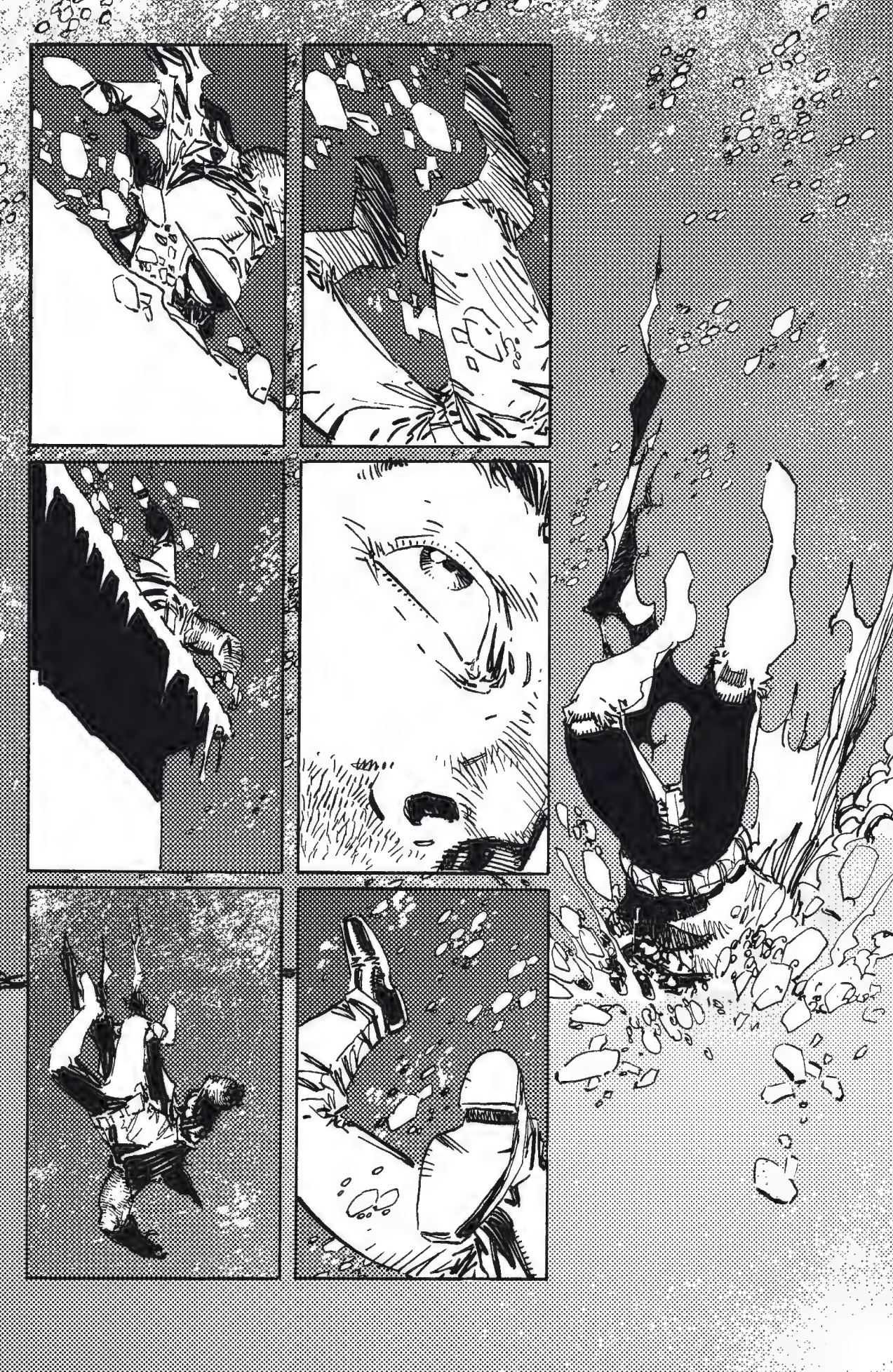


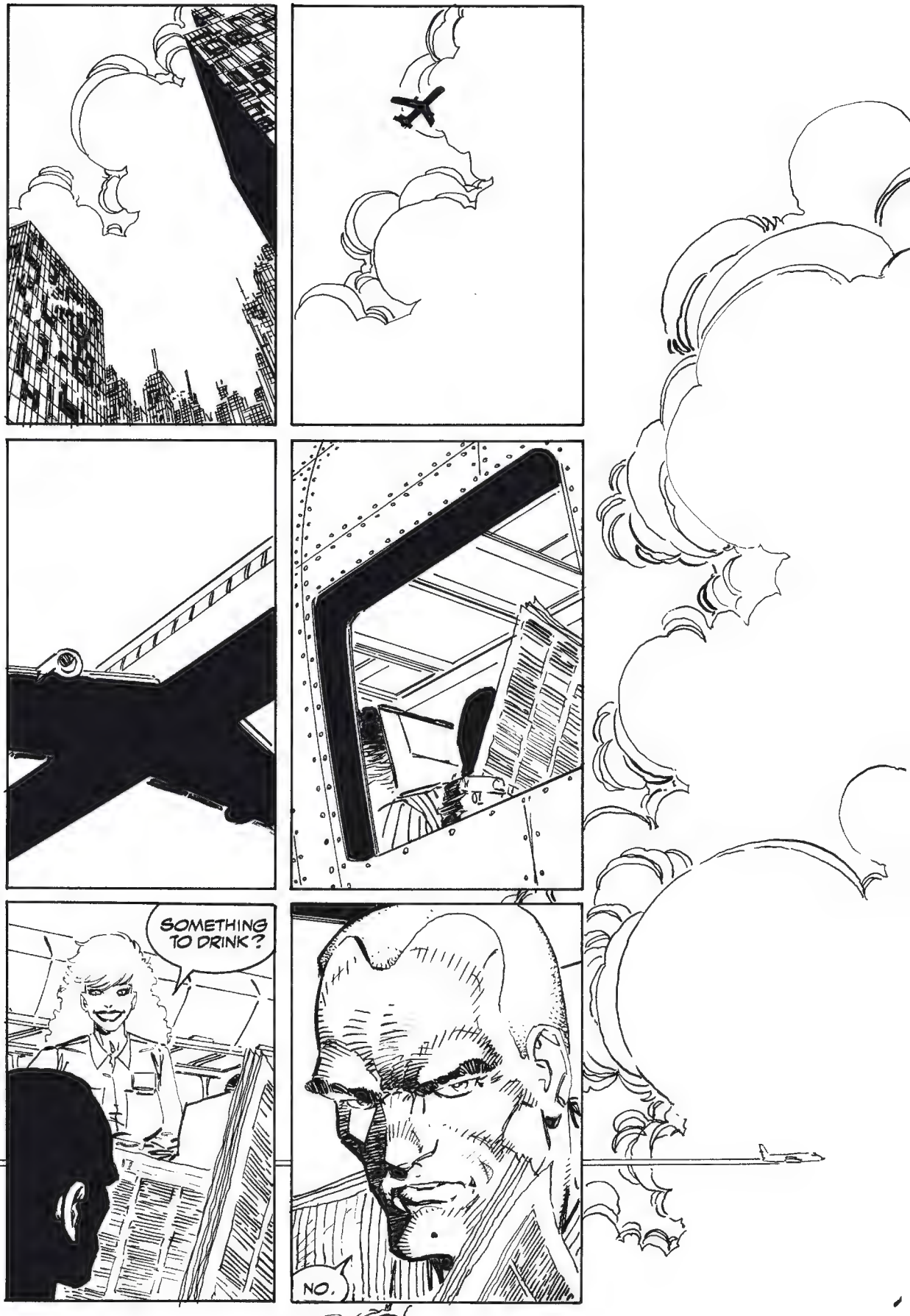
CRUNCH!

IN YOUR NEXT LIFE, WHEN SOMEBODY SUGGESTS YOU LEAVE OR FACE THEIR WRATH.
LEAVE.








SOMETHING TO DRINK?
NO.

OFFICER DRAGON IS MISSING.
DRAGON AND LT. FRANK DARLING HAVE BOTH DISAPPEARED. THE LAST TIME THEY WERE SEEN, THEY'D ACQUIRED A WARRANT FOR OVERLORD'S ARREST.
WE SEARCHED OVERLORD'S PREMISES AND FOUND NO TRACE OF EITHER OF THEM.
IT'S BEEN TWO WEEKS.
NOTHING.
POLICE
WE'VE DONE ALL WE CAN. WE'VE SPENT COUNTLESS HOURS SEARCHING FOR THEM, ALTHOUGH THE WEATHER HAS NOT COOPERATED IN OUR EFFORTS.
WE HAVE TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE VERY REAL POSSIBILITY THAT--
THEY MAY BE DEAD.
ALEX.
ALEX!
EXCEPT FOR FRANK, YOU WERE PROBABLY THE CLOSEST TO DRAGON.
CHICAGO POLICE DEPT.
IS THERE ANYTHING HE SAID TO YOU THAT MIGHT HELP US FIND HIM? DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE HE MIGHT BE?
I WISH I KNEW.

WITH THE DEATH OF CYBERFACE ALL CHARGES AGAINST THE ALLEGED CRIME-BOSS, OVERLORD, HAVE BEEN DROPPED.

THE IDENTITY OF THE MAN BEHIND OVERLORD'S MASK HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED. WITHOUT CYBERFACE ALIVE TO PRESS CHARGES, THE CHANCES OF A CONVICTION ARE NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE.

LIEUTENANT FRANK DARLING AND SUPER-COP, OFFICER DRAGON ARE STILL MISSING AFTER A THREE WEEK LONG SEARCH THAT TURNED UP NOTHING. THE SEARCH CONTINUES.

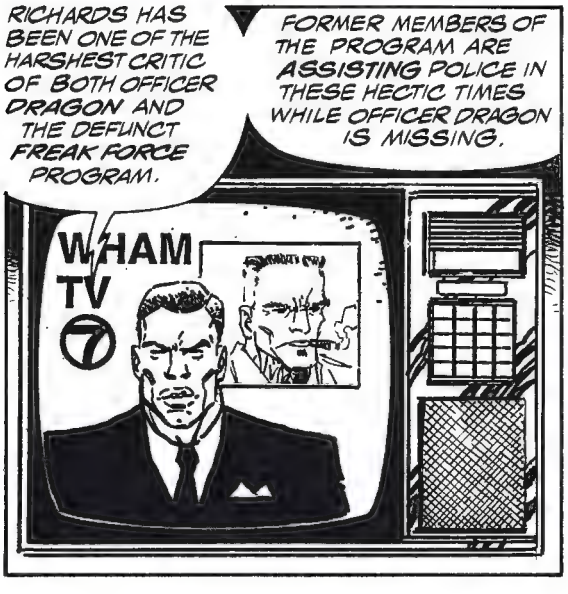
THE CHICAGO POLICE ARE FACING A NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TASK OF FILLING THE VOID LEFT BY THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THESE TWO MEN.

A VIGILANTE CALLING HIMSELF "MACE" HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING TO TAKE UP SOME OF THE SLACK LEFT BY THE MISSING SUPER-COP. MACE HAS ALLEGEDLY BEEN INVOLVED IN THREE BRUTAL SLAYINGS OF SUPER POWERED CRIMINALS IN THE CHICAGO AREA.

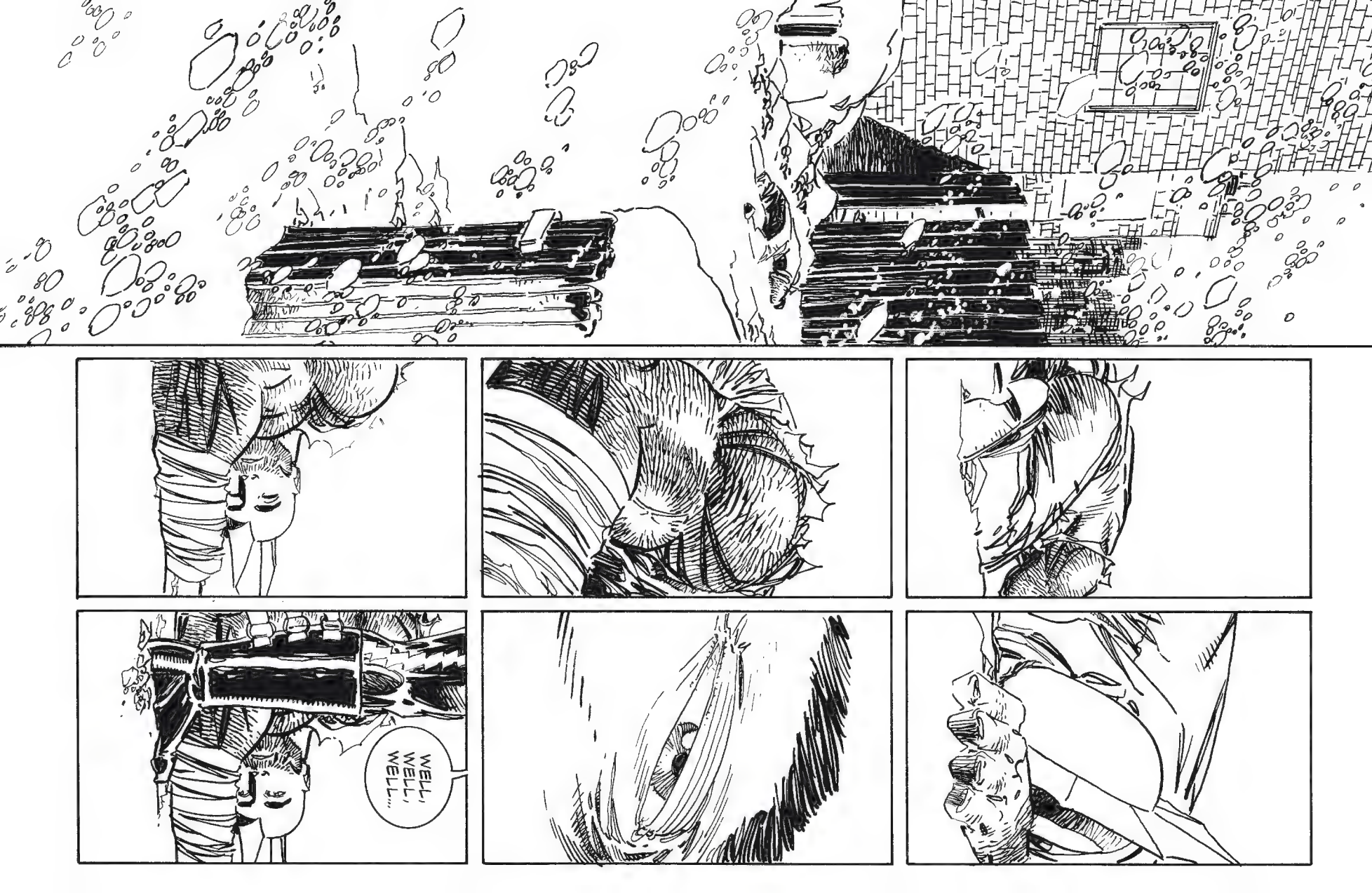
R. RICHARD RICHARDS, PUBLISHER OF THE CHICAGO VOICE, BLASTED MACE AND THE "LEGACY OF BRUTALITY THAT THE DRAGON LEFT BEHIND."

RICHARDS HAS BEEN ONE OF THE HARSHEST CRITIC OF BOTH OFFICER DRAGON AND THE DEFUNCT FREAK FORCE PROGRAM.

FORMER MEMBERS OF THE PROGRAM ARE ASSISTING POLICE IN THESE HECTIC TIMES WHILE OFFICER DRAGON IS MISSING.



DAMN STRAIGHT.

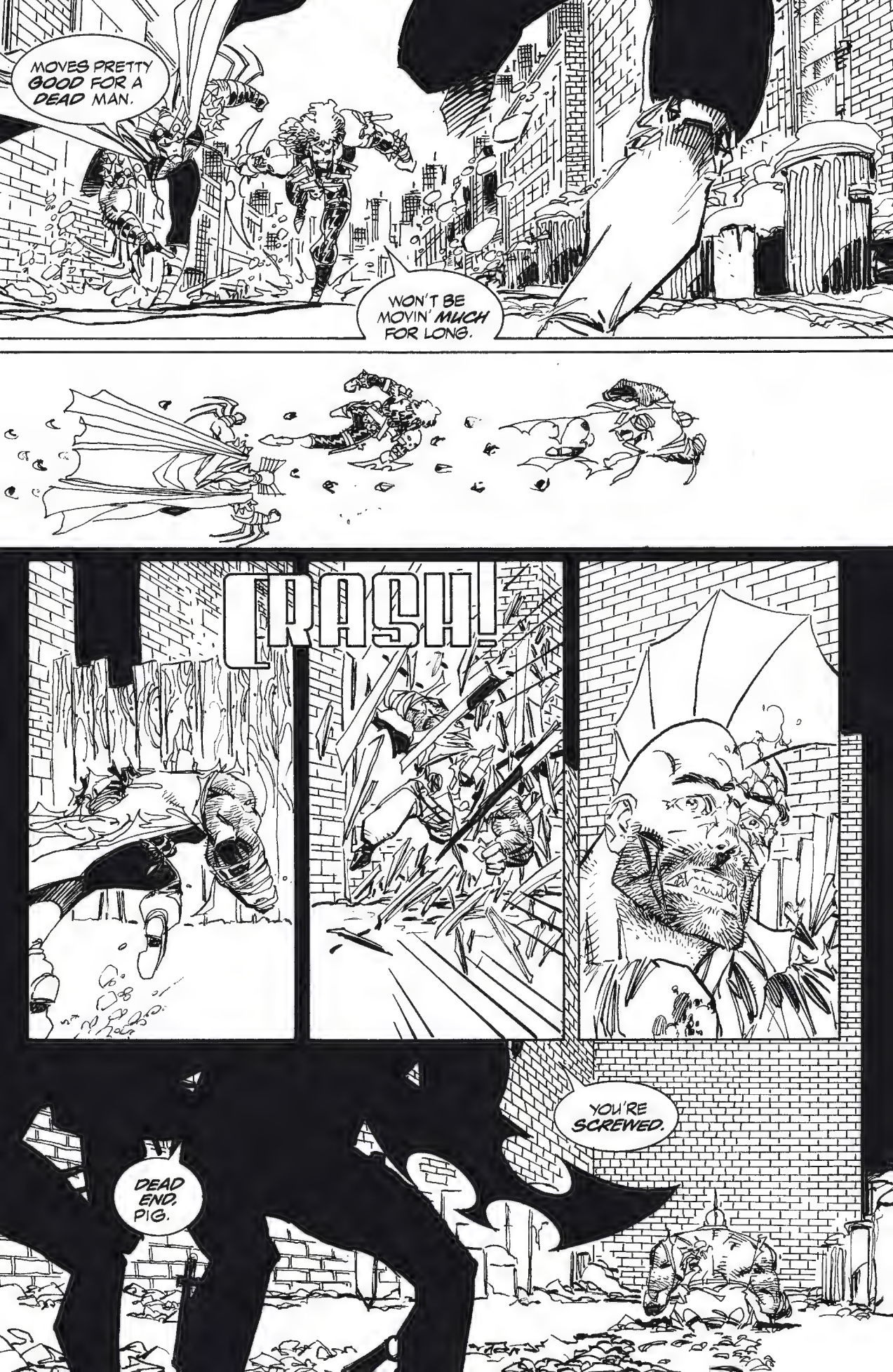

WELL, WELL, WELL...

LOOK WHAT WE HAVE HERE.

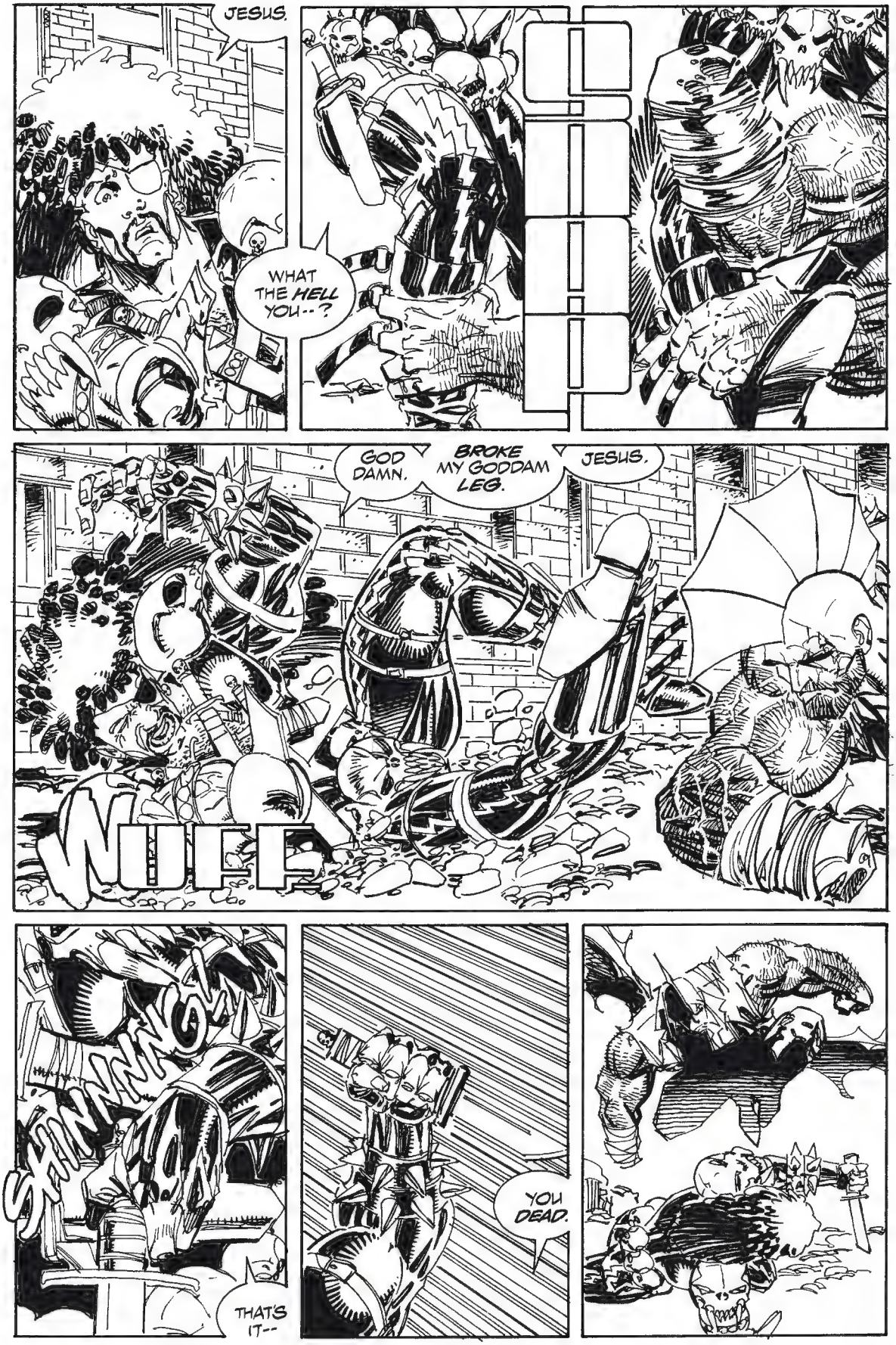
IT'S NO SECRET THAT I'M NOT THE DRAGON'S BIGGEST FAN.
BUT DEAD OR ALIVE--
HE SHOULD BE FOUND.
I HEAR YA', HOWIE. I'M SUPPOSED TO TO BE UNDER COVER--THAT'S MY GIG.
BUT I'LL DO WHATEVER I CAN TO HELP.
YOU CAN COUNT ON ME, HOWARD.
I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE HIM MUCH BUT EVEN YOU MUST ADMIT...
WE NEED HIM.
WILLIAM...
...THIS MAY TAKE A WHILE.
RITA HIDES THAT SCHOOLGIRL CRUSH PRETTY WELL, I THINK.
HEY, I'D LIKE A PIECE OF HIM, MYSELF.
COUNT ME IN.
KNOCK IT OFF, PHIL--I JUST ATE.
LET'S GO GET HIM.
TELL ME ABOUT IT.

GOOD ONE, CUTTHROAT.
WHAP!
WE HEARD ABOUT YOUR LITTLE SWAN DIVE, PIG.
IT TOOK A WHILE TO FIND YOU WITH THE SNOW STORM AN' ALL THAT.
BOSSMAN FIGURE YOU DEAD.
WE AIM TO MAKE SURE THAT'S THE CASE.
HAK!
SLASH!
DHAKK!

HAW HAW HAW HAW!
GET UP, YOU BASTARD.
GET UP.
HAW HAW HAW!
WUFF

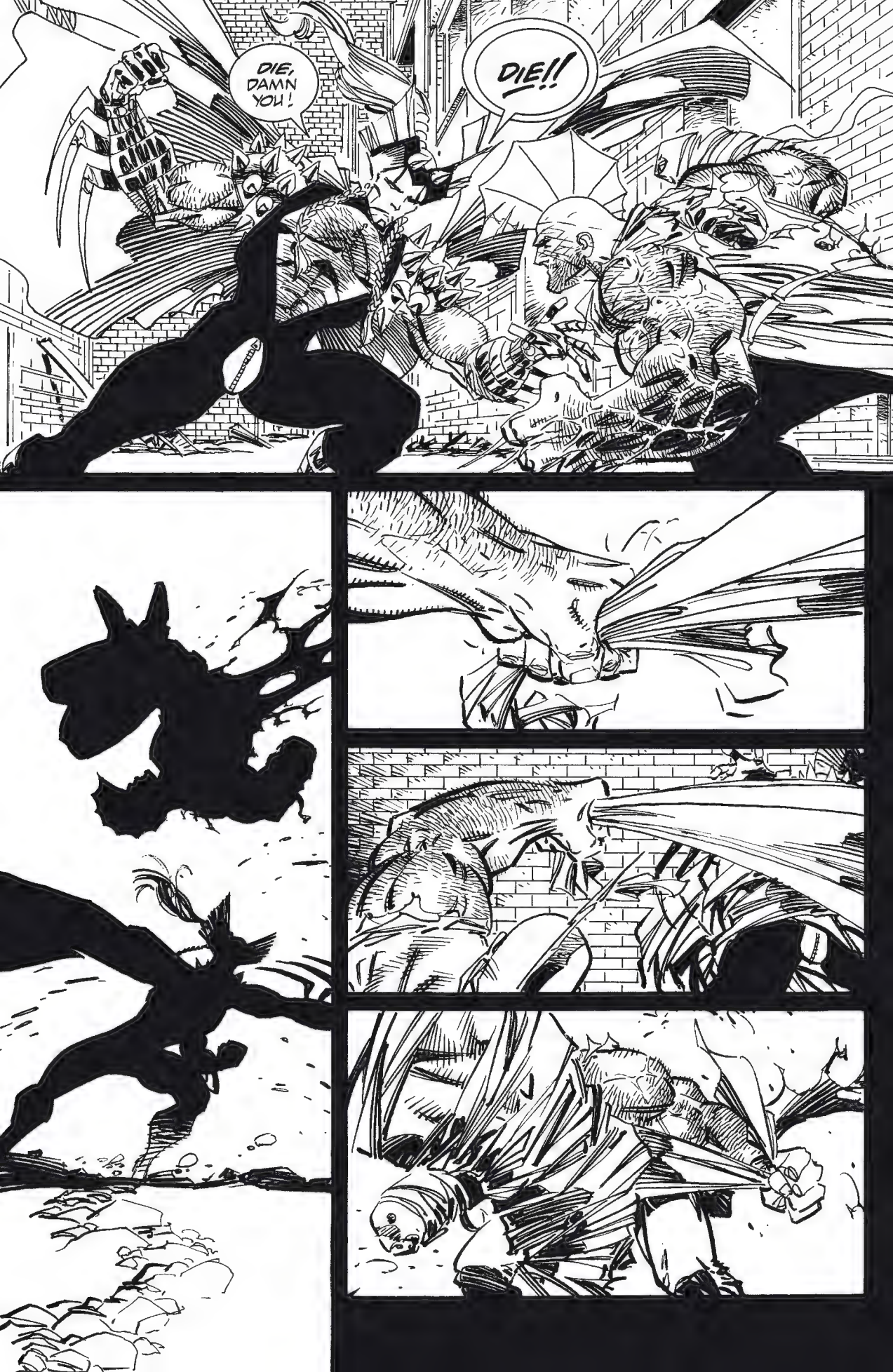

MOVES PRETTY GOOD FOR A DEAD MAN.
WON'T BE MOVIN' MUCH FOR LONG.
CRASH!
YOU'RE SCREWED.
DEAD END, PIG.

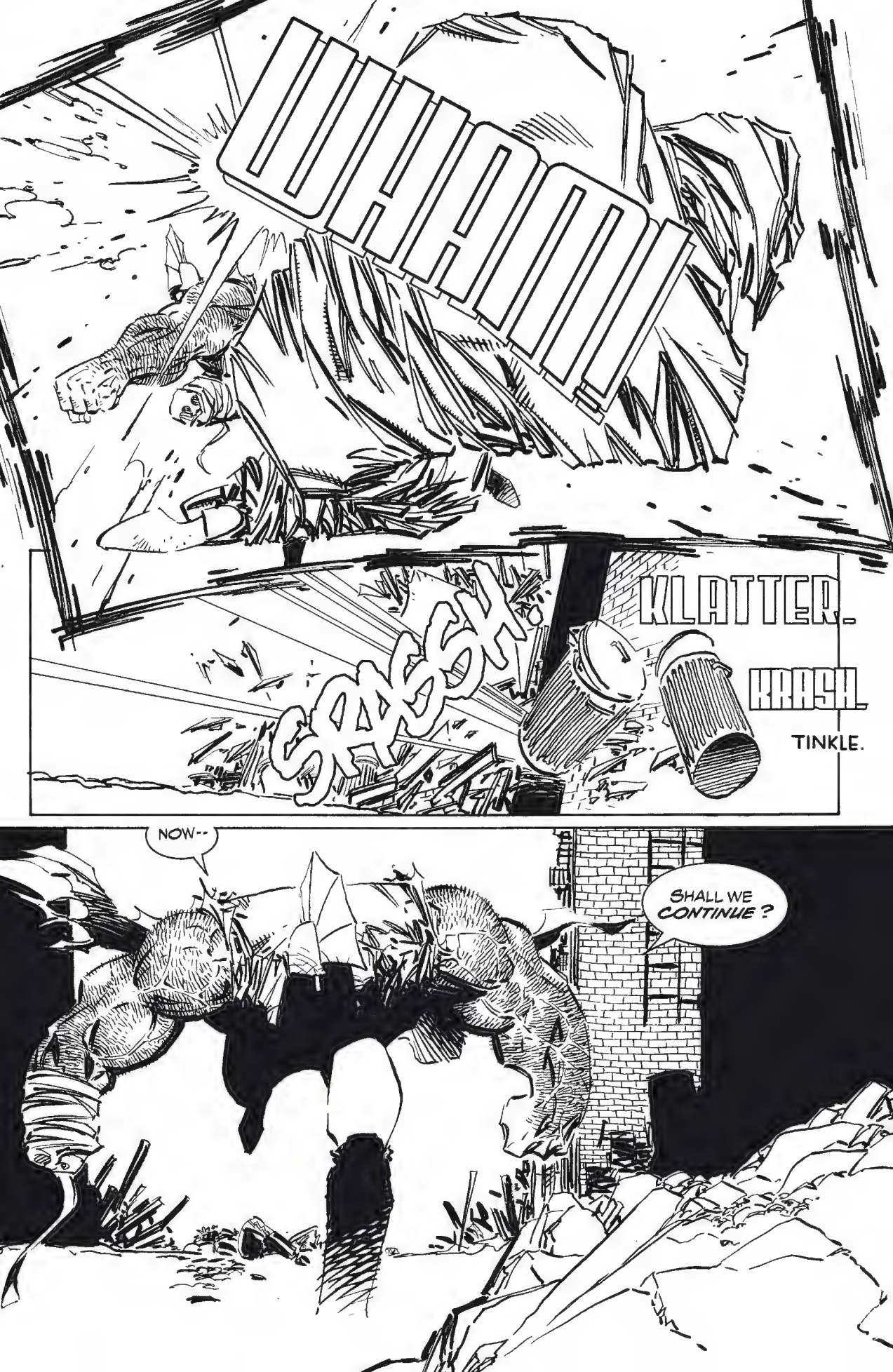
HE LIKE A CORNERED ANIMAL. LOOK AT 'IM.
MY TURN, HELLRAZOR.
BEEN A LONG TIME, DRAGON.
LONG TIME SINCE YOU PUT ME IN JAIL.
LONG TIME I STAYED THERE.
NOW--
YOU OUTTA TIME!
SKRASH!!!


JESUS.
WHAT THE HELL YOU--?
GOD DAMN.
BROKE MY GODDAM LEG.
JESUS.
WUFF
SHINNNG
THAT'S IT--
YOU DEAD.

BASTARD.
RAK

HAKK
SLASSHH!
CHAKKI
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
ARE YOU THROUGH?


DIE, DAMN YOU!
DIE!!


WHAM!
KLATTER.
SMASH!
KRASH.
TINKLE.
NOW--
SHALL WE CONTINUE?

GONE.
TYPICAL.
OH, MAN--
LOST A LOT OF BLOOD.
TOO MUCH.
DAMN.
NUFF.

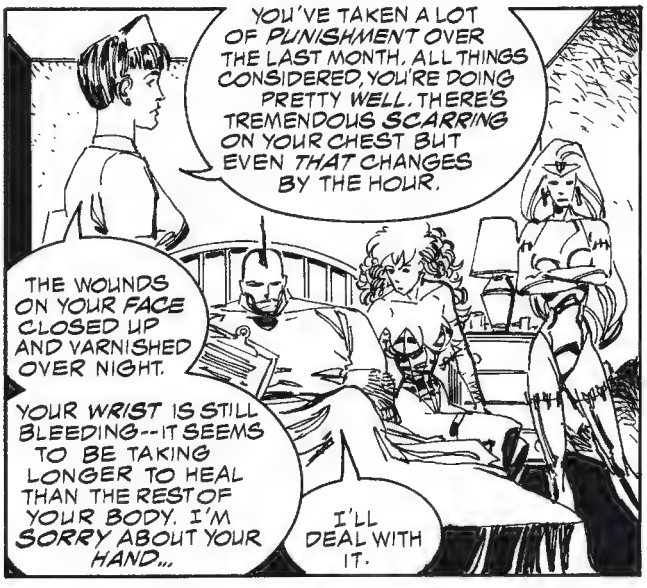
DRAGON?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

WHAT A HORRIBLE DREAM...!

HE'S AWAKE.
WHERE AM I?
PHYLLIS DEEDER'S APARTMENT.
WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BEST IF YOU WEREN'T TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL OR FREAK FORCE HEADQUARTERS.
YOUR CHANCES OF HEALING WITHOUT INCIDENT WERE BETTER HERE.
HI, MISTER DRAGON.

NURSE STEVENS--
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I CONTACTED HER. I MET HER DURING MY STAY AT THE HOSPITAL.
SHE'S SEEN YOU BEFORE AND I THOUGHT SHE MIGHT KNOW BETTER WHAT WAS GOING ON WITH YOU.


YOU'VE TAKEN A LOT OF PUNISHMENT OVER THE LAST MONTH. ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, YOU'RE DOING PRETTY WELL. THERE'S TREMENDOUS SCARRING ON YOUR CHEST BUT EVEN THAT CHANGES BY THE HOUR.
THE WOUNDS ON YOUR FACE CLOSED UP AND VARNISHED OVER NIGHT.
YOUR WRIST IS STILL BLEEDING--IT SEEMS TO BE TAKING LONGER TO HEAL THAN THE REST OF YOUR BODY. I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR HAND...
I'LL DEAL WITH IT.

YOU'RE LOOKING GOOD, HANDSOME--I SAVED YOU, Y'KNOW. YOU WERE ALL CUT UP WHEN I FOUND YOU.
THANKS, RAPTURE--I OWE YOU ONE.
I WAS HOPING YOU'D SAY THAT.
I HAVE A FEW IDEAS ON HOW YOU COULD PAY ME BACK...

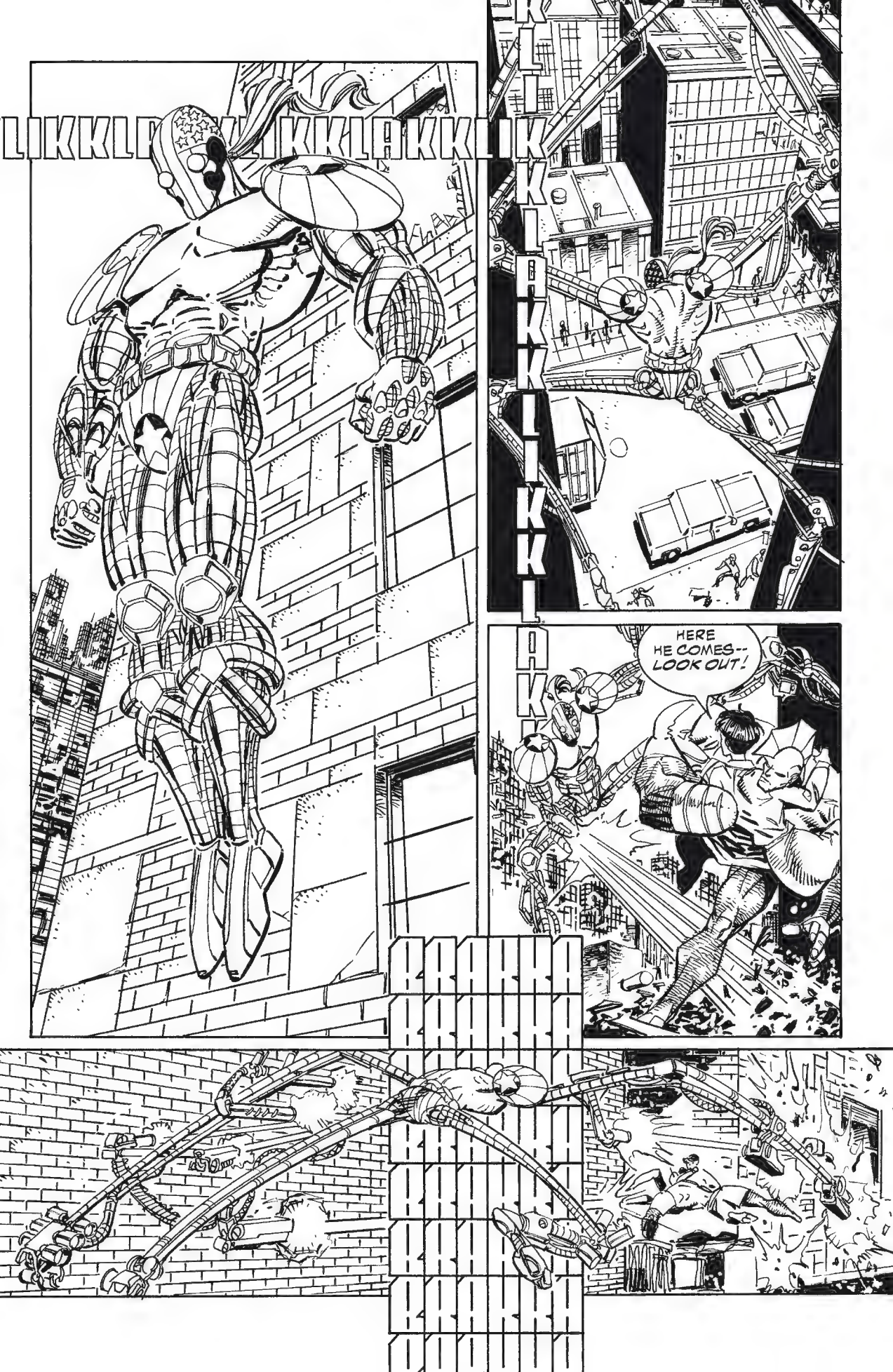
HEY, GUYS--IS EVERYBODY DECENT?
AT THE MOMENT.

HOW'S MY NEW ROOMMATE DOING?
HE'S...
AH, A PRETTY REDHEAD, TOO!
THIS JUST KEEPS GETTING BETTER.
HE'S RECOVERING NICELY.
IT CERTAINLY SEEMS THAT WAY, MISS STEVENS.
CALL ME ANN.
JUST KIDDING-- IT WAS A JOKE!
ALL RIGHT, PEOPLE, HE'S ALIVE. MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.
LET'S LET THE POOR GUY GET SOME REST.
WE'VE STILL GOT A JOB TO DO, RAPTURE. COME ON.
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE, DART.
NOW YOU GET YOURSELF PLENTY OF SLEEP, DRAGON...
...'CAUSE YOU WON'T BE GETTIN' ANY WHEN I COME TO COLLECT MY REWARD.
NOW WHO'S THERE?
HELLO?
KLIK KLAK

SUPERPATRIOT!
JESUS!!
AAAII!!
OH MY GOD!
KAPWINGG
THOK THOK THOK THOK

WHAT THE HELL--?
KRAKK!
KLIK KLAKKKLIKKKLAKK
KRAKK!
STOP IT!!
STOP!!
WAUDD!
UNNGHH!
OH, MAN...

AAAAIIIII!
I'VE GOT YOU, GIRL.
HOLD ON!
THOOM!


LIKKLAKKLIKKLAKKLIKKLAKKLIKKLAKK
HERE HE COMES-- LOOK OUT!

CHEW ON THIS, YOU LOUSY--
WONG'S
OH MY GOD--HE'S STILL COMING--!
CRAP.
HOLD ON, SISTER!
KRUUUAK-
KRAATER
CRACK!

THOK!
BA-OKK!
TASH!
WHAM!
CRASH
THAT GOT HIM!
HE'S REELING.
LOOKS LIKE HE'S DOWN.
SPOOKY.
I WONDER WHAT GOT INTO HIM?

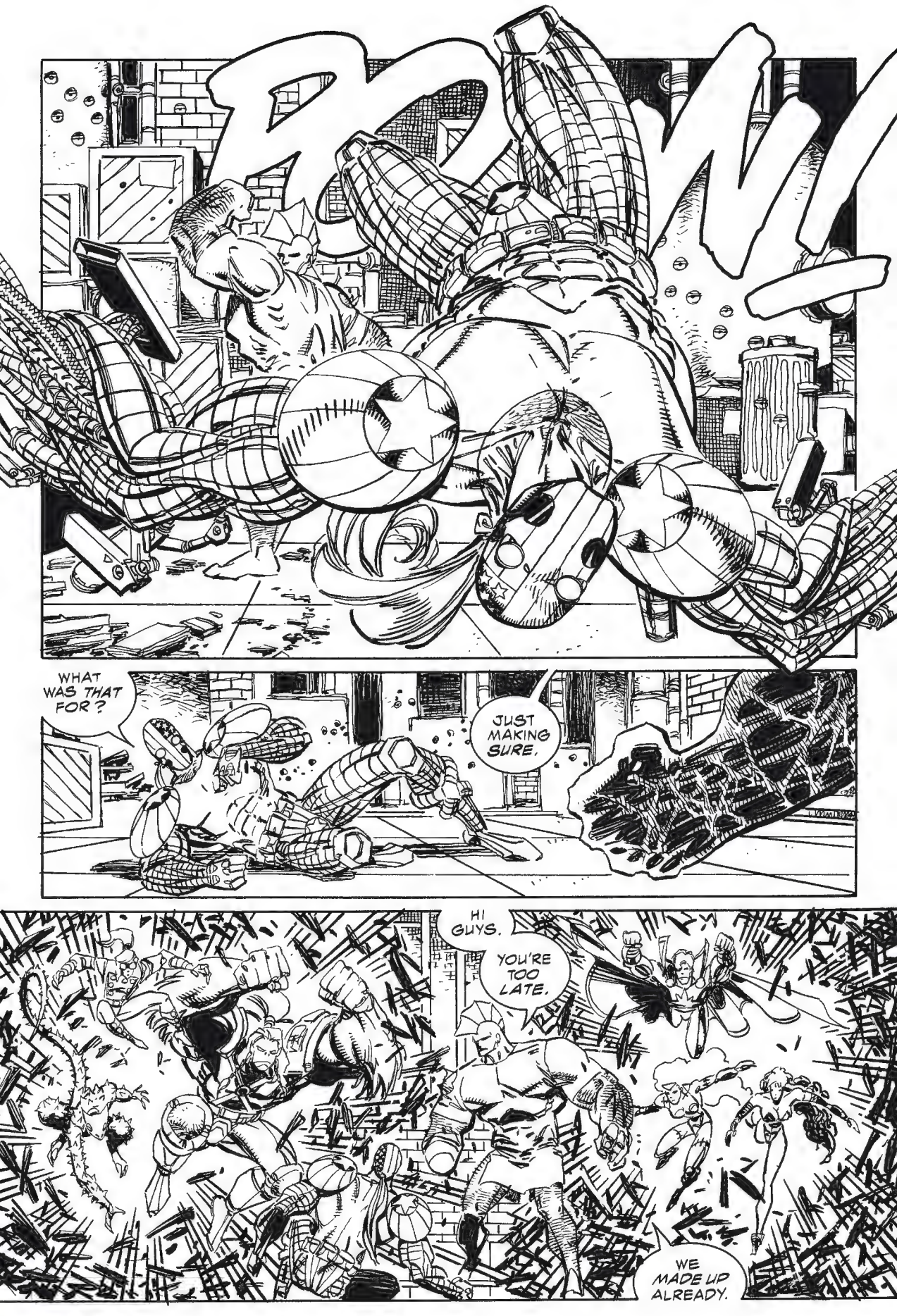
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
CRAP.
LOOK OUT!!
SKRASHH!
ARE YOU OKAY?
I THINK SO.

HERE WE GO AGAIN.
KEEP DOWN.
HE'S SHOOTING BLIND--DOESN'T KNOW WHERE WE ARE.
GET BEHIND ME.
LET ME GO GET HELP.
IT'S NOT FAR TO THE STAIRS-- I THINK I CAN MAKE IT.
PLEASE...
YOU'RE EITHER THE BRAVEST GIRL I'VE EVER MET... OR THE STUPIDEST.
GO.

OH MAN...
WHAT'S IT TAKE?

DAMN.
SON OF A--

BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA
GLITCH
PESKY LITTLE BASTARDS.
KLNK
GIVE IT UP.
UHHH!
SQUIT.
UUUHH...
ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M... I'M OKAY... I AM...


BOOM!
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?
JUST MAKING SURE.
HI GUYS.
YOU'RE TOO LATE.
WE MADE UP ALREADY.

THANKS FOR--UH--PUTTING ME UP.
NICE TO GET IN A GOOD, UNDISTURBED, NAP.
WE TRIED.
I KNOW--AND I DO APPRECIATE IT.
SORRY, AGAIN.
THIS IS THE SECOND TIME I'VE BEEN ATTACKED BY SOMEBODY WITH ONE OF THOSE LEACH THINGS ATTACHED TO THEIR NECKS.
I'M NOT SURE WHAT IT ALL MEANS.
BUT I'M GOING TO KEEP MY EYES OPEN.
;AHEM;
AREN'T YOU FORGETTING SOMETHING?
LET ME HAVE A RAIN CHECK, HONEY.
I NEED TO GET SOME SLEEP TONIGHT.
I'LL BE IN TOUCH.
WHAT'S A GIRL GOTTA DO?

YOU'RE A FREE MAN, PSYCHO-- BUT WATCH YOURSELF.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'RE LETTING THIS SHREW CREEP WALK.
STEP OUT OF LINE AGAIN, FREAK AND I'LL MAKE SURE YOU NEVER WALK AGAIN.
GET LOST FREAK.
GO ON.
POLICE
CHRIS... ?
NO HARD FEELINGS, PAL.
IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT.
DON'T LET THESE GUYS GET YOU DOWN.
POLICE
LOOK WHO THE CAT DRAGGED IN!
GOOD TO SEE YOU, MAN!
WHERE THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN?
DRAGON!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONE FOR GOOD.
WHAT HAPPENED?

YOU'RE ALIVE!
GOOD TO SEE YOU TOO, ALEX.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
WHERE WERE YOU?
GEEZ, IT'S BEEN HELL THE LAST MONTH.
I WENT UP AGAINST OVERLORD-- HE SHOT ME FULL OF HOLES AND SENT ME FLYING OUT A WINDOW--SIXTY STORIES UP.
HE BLEW OFF MY HAND.
OH MY... GOD.
I'LL NAIL HIM--
DRAGON, CAN YOU IDENTIFY HIM?
WITHOUT THE MASK I MEAN-- CAN YOU?
I DOUBT IT.
HELL, HE'S COVERED FROM HEAD TO FOOT IN METAL--THE ONLY VISIBLE PORTION IS A BIT OF HIS MOUTH.
BUT THAT'S NO PROBLEM-- CYBERFACE HAS SEEN HIM OUT OF COSTUME. HE CAN IDENTIFY HIM. IF I WAS BETTER PREPARED, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO TAKE OVERLORD IN.
CYBERFACE JUST HAS TO TESTIFY AND--
WE MAY HAVE A BIT OF A PROBLEM THERE...
CYBERFACE IS DEAD.

GOING SOMEWHERE, KILLER ?
YOU CAN RUN BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE...
BASSH!
THUNK!
HWOKK!
...FROM MACE!

WHAT I'M SAYIN' IS, WE SHOULD LAY LOW FER A WHILE.
WE KEEP MAKIN' SO MANY RUNS, WE'RE BOUND TO GET SPOTTED.
SO?
WE DON'T WANT TO GET OUR SORRY BUTTS TOSSED IN JAIL.
AND DON'T GO RUNNIN' OFF AT THE MOUTH ABOUT WHAT A BIG TOUGH GUY YOU ARE, JIMBO. WE'VE HEARD IT ALL BEFORE.
THAT DON'T MEAN SQUAT IF WE'RE FACIN' A MESS OF COPS.
ESPECIALLY IF SOME GUY LIKE THE DRAGON'S ABOARD.
THAT GUY'S ONE TOUGH MOTHER--
KAK
I'M DA TOUGHEST @#$%ER AROUND.
I AM.
JIMBO!

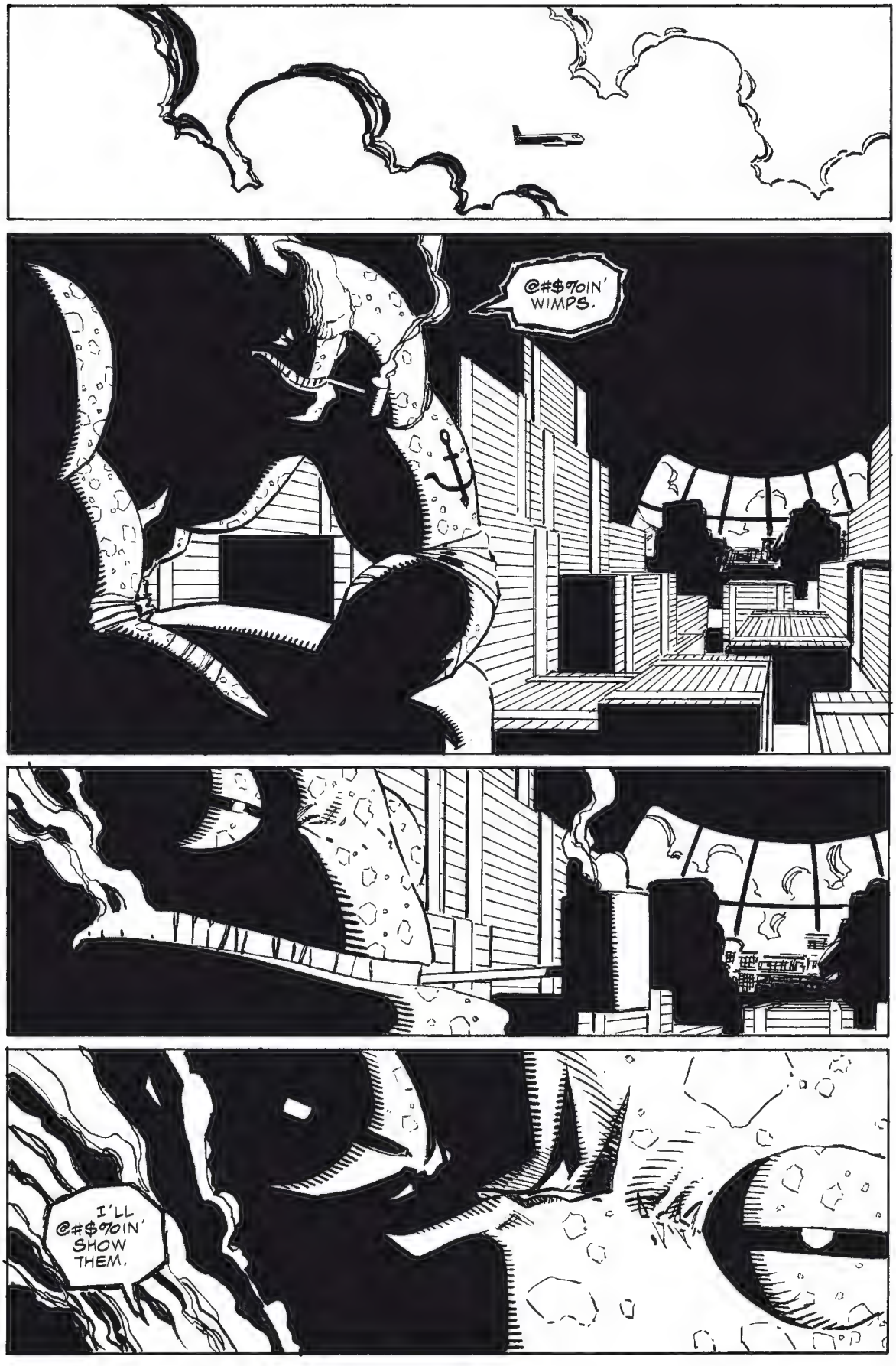
JIMBO-- DON'T KILL HIM!
HE DIDN'T MEAN NUTHIN'.
NOBODY CAN @#$%OIN' BEAT ME.
YOU @#$%OIN' HEAR ME?
NOBODY!
I'M @#$%OIN' TIRED OF HIDIN'.
I'LL SHOW YOU SONS OF %#@$ WHO'S BOSS.
I'M GONNA @#$%OIN' FIND THAT @#$%OIN' DRAGON @#$%OER!
I'LL @#$%OIN' KICK HIS @#$%OIN' ASS.
VRUMP.

YELL, FAT BOY.
YELL!
SCREAM YOUR GODDAM HEAD OFF.
AIN'T NO ONE GONNA HEAR YOU.
AIN'T NO ONE GONNA HE'P YOU.
DON'T KILL ME!
DON'T KILL ME!
DON'T KILL ME!
DON'T KILL ME!
BINC
BINC

YOU!
DON'T THIS CITY HAVE ANY OTHER COPS?
HELLO, CUTTHROAT. YOU'RE UNDER ARREST.
LAST TIME WE RAN INTO EACH OTHER, I WAS BADLY HURT AND YOU HAD HELLRAZOR WITH YOU...
I STILL KICKED YOUR ASS.
I'M ALL BETTER NOW.
DON'T COME ANY CLOSER, PIG.
I'LL CUT HIM OPEN.
YOU DON'T HAVE A PRAYER, CREEP.
I MEAN IT!!
DON'T KILL ME!
DON'T KILL ME!
DON'T KILL ME!

WHACK!
SO DO I.
DON'T...
EVEN...
THINK--
ABOUT IT.

YOU AIN'T TAKIN' ME IN, PIG. NO WAY! I AIN'T GOIN' BACK TO NO JAIL.
TIME YOU WERE DEALT SOME SERIOUS PAIN.
I'M GONNA ENJOY THIS!
WHATEVER TURNS YOU ON.
BAP!
OH MY GOD--
OH MY GOD.
IS HE DEAD?
IS HE?
HE'LL LIVE.


@#$%OIN' WIMPS.
I'LL @#$%OIN' SHOW THEM.

WHAT'S THE VERDICT, NURSE STEVENS?
YOU CAN CALL ME ANN, MISTER DRAGON.
YOUR COMPLETELY NORMAL-- OR AT LEAST, AS NORMAL AS YOU GET.
IT TOOK ABOUT FIVE WEEKS FOR YOUR HAND TO GROW BACK COMPLETELY--IT MIGHT HAVE TAKEN LESS TIME IF YOUR SYSTEM WASN'T ALSO REPAIRING YOUR CHEST.
YOUR HAND IS BACK TO HOW IT WAS, EVEN YOUR FINGERPRINTS ARE THE SAME.
WHICH REMINDS ME, RAY WONG ASKED ME TO TELL YOU THAT THEY FOUND RODNEY SHWARTZBLATTS RECORDS--
--HIS PRINTS DON'T MATCH YOURS AT ALL.
STILL, YOU HAVE TWO TOES-- IF YOU WERE EVER A REGULAR HUMAN, YOU OBVIOUSLY WENT THROUGH A FAIRLY RADICAL TRANSFORMATION-- WE CAN'T RULE ANYTHING OUT.
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.. ANN.
I'LL BE IN TOUCH.
HOW'D IT GO, HON'?

LISTEN-- I WANT TO APOLOGIZE FOR THE OTHER NIGHT.
I'M SORRY I FREAKED OUT.
IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.
IT'S JUST-- WELL, THAT WAS PRETTY DAMN WEIRD Y'GOTTA ADMIT.
C'MON, HON', WHAT DO YA' SAY?
I'M WILLIN' TO GIVE IT ANOTHER GO IF YOU ARE.
RAPTURE... !
AW--DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT.
I WAS ONLY...
I'M STILL LEARNING ABOUT MYSELF.
THERE'S SO MUCH I DON'T KNOW.
BEAR WITH ME, KID.
LET'S TAKE IT SLOW.

LIEUTENANT FRANK DARLING IS MISSING.
POLICE
POLICE
DON'T TELL ME YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS.
I DON'T.
AND IT'S NOT YOUR PLACE TO BE QUESTIONING ME ON THESE MATTERS ANYWAY, BULL -- YOU HEAD UP THE S.W.A.T. TEAM.
THE LAST ANYBODY HAD HEARD, YOU AND FRANK HAD GOTTEN YOUR LITTLE WARRANT TO GO AFTER OVERLORD. YOU GOT CLOBBERED AND HE VANISHED. THERE'S SOMETHING YOU'RE NOT TELLING ME.
I DON'T CARE IF IT'S NOT MY JURISDICTION, DAMN IT -- I WANT TO KNOW.
DID HE GO WITH YOU?
DO YOU THINK I'M STUPID ENOUGH TO LET HIM COME ALONG WITH ME?
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
I'VE GOT PLACES TO BE, LIEUTENANT.
YOU DO NOT!
DRAGON-- WE NEED YOU!
WHAT DID I TELL YOU?
THIS ISN'T OVER, DRAGON.
IT NEVER IS-- "DARREN".

DERE YOU @#$%IN' ARE.
THOUGHT I'D HAFFTA TEAR APART DA WHOLE @#$%IN' CITY TO GET YER @#$%IN' ATTENTION.
WHAT'S YOUR BEEF, HANDSOME?
NUTHIN'.
I JUST WANNA KICK THE $#!+ OUTTA YOU, DAT'S ALL!

THAT WASN'T VERY NICE, CREEP.
I LIKE MY LOBSTER TENDER AND SWEET.
GET READY TA BLEED, @$$HOLE!
I'M DA @#$%IN' STRONGEST @#$%ER AROUND.
DON'T @#$% WITH JIMBO, DA MIGHTY LOBSTER!
I HADN'T PLANNED ON IT, JERK.
I WANTED TO CATCH A CUBS GAME.
BUT I'LL OBLIGE.

TAKE NOTES, CHUMP, WHAT I'VE GOT IN STORE FOR YOU IS A TEXTBOOK TAILKICKING.
GATE INDUSTRIES
WUMP
SKAKKA-KA-BA-BOOM!
@#$% THAT!
I GOTTA BETTER @#$%IN' IDEA--EAT DIS @#$%IN' $#!+, @$$HOLE!
CRAP.
HA!
THAT DOES IT--
I'M PISSED.

CHICAGO IS MY HOME, CREEP!
AND I'LL BE DAMNED IF I LET YOU DESTROY IT!
DEN YOU'RE @#$%IN' DAMNED, @$$HOLE!
'CAUSE DERE AIN'T A @#$%IN' THING YA CAN @#$%IN' DO TO @#$%IN' STOP ME!
KLAKK!
WRAK!

THERE'S PLENTY I CAN DO.
I'VE ONLY TOUCHED ON THE WAYS I CAN TAKE CARE OF YOU. I'VE RUN IN A HUNDRED SUPER-POWERED DORKS LIKE YOURSELF
I'LL SEE YOU IN THE SLAMMER!
WHUOOP
WHAM
DA ONLY @#$%OIN' THING YOU'LL BE @#$%OIN' SEEIN' IS DA INSIDE OF A @#$%OIN' COFFIN!
GIVE IT A REST.
I'LL GIVE YOU A @#$%OIN' REST--DA BIG @#$%OIN' REST!
KRAKK!

I DON'T GIVE A @#$%!N' $#!+ ABOUT YER @#$%!N' CITY AND ITS @#$%!N' PEOPLE-- I ONLY CARE 'BOUT ONE @#$%!N' THING--
OH MY GOD!
AND THAT'S SHOWIN' DA @#$%!N' WORLD THAT I'M STRONGER THAN YOU!
WHOA!
RUN!!

--THAT I CAN KICK YER@#$%OIN' ASS!
IF YOU@#$%OIN' KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YA, YOU'LL@#$%OIN' LAY DOWN AND@#$%OIN' DIE ALREADY!
THAT'S NOT THE WAY THINGS WORK, LOBSTER-MAN. YOU TEAR UP THE CITY-- YOU GO TO JAIL.
IT'S THAT SIMPLE.
WHUD!
THEY'LL KILL US ALL!
JESUS!
OH, GOD!
TIME TO WRAP THIS UP, SUCKER.
BACKH

YOU @#$%IN' GOT IT!
OH, GOD.

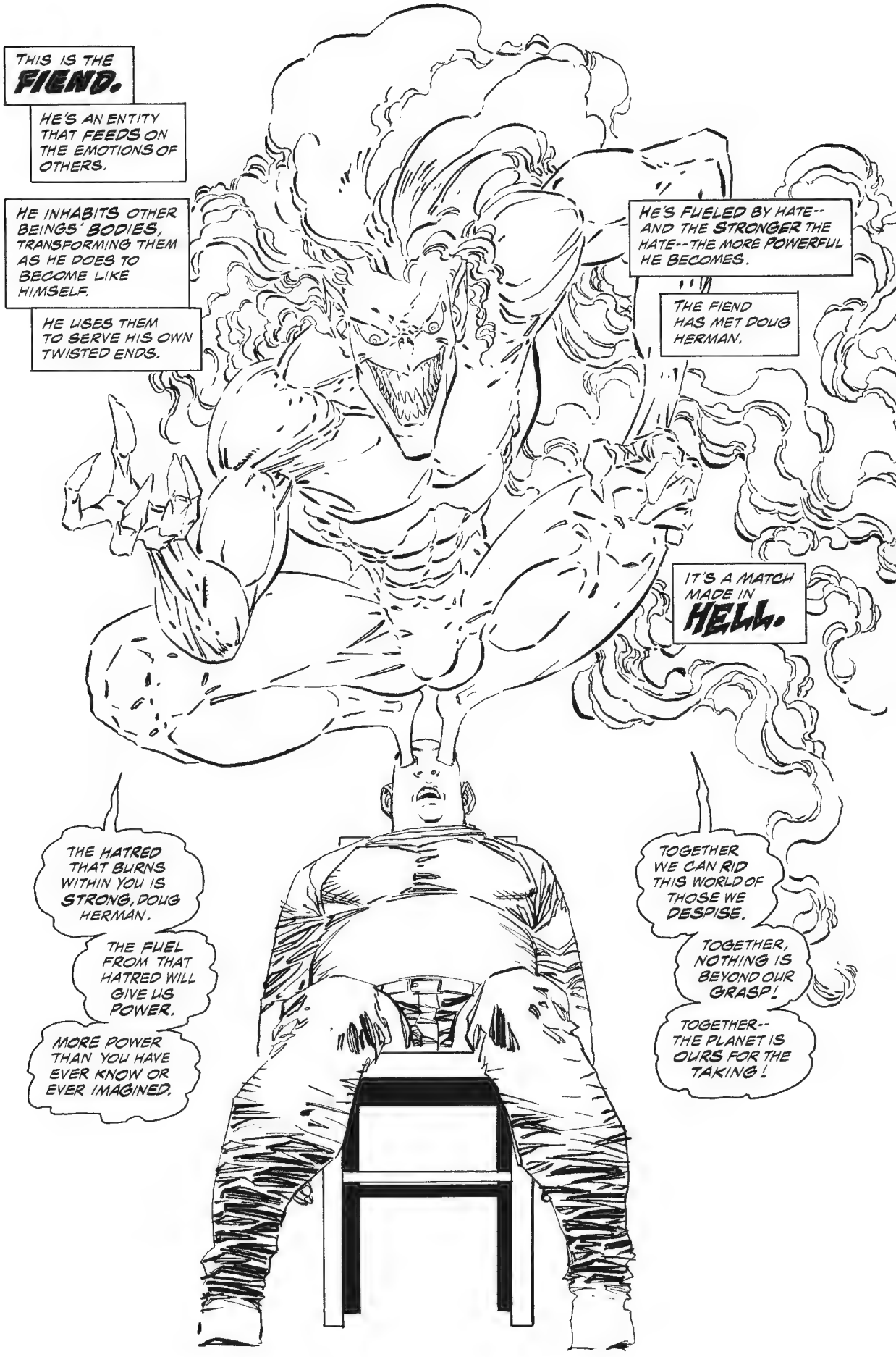
STAY BACK!
PLEASE DON'T HURT HIM ANY MORE!
I BEAT HIM!
I @#$%OIN' BEAT HIM!!
YEAH, YEAH.
WHAT HAPPENED?
I WON!
I TOOK A DIVE, ALEX.
WE'RE TOO EVENLY MATCHED. ALL HE WANTED WAS TO SHOW THE WORLD HE'S STRONGER THAN ME-- I DON'T THINK IT'S WORTH DESTROYING THE WHOLE DAMN CITY TO PROVE OTHERWISE.
I FIGURED HE'D LEAVE ONCE I WAS DOWN.
BUT HE'S GETTING AWAY.
LET HIM.
HE WON'T GET FAR--
I'LL GET YOUNGBLOOD OR SOMEBODY TO GO AFTER HIM.
CHICAGO IS SAFE-- I DID MY JOB.

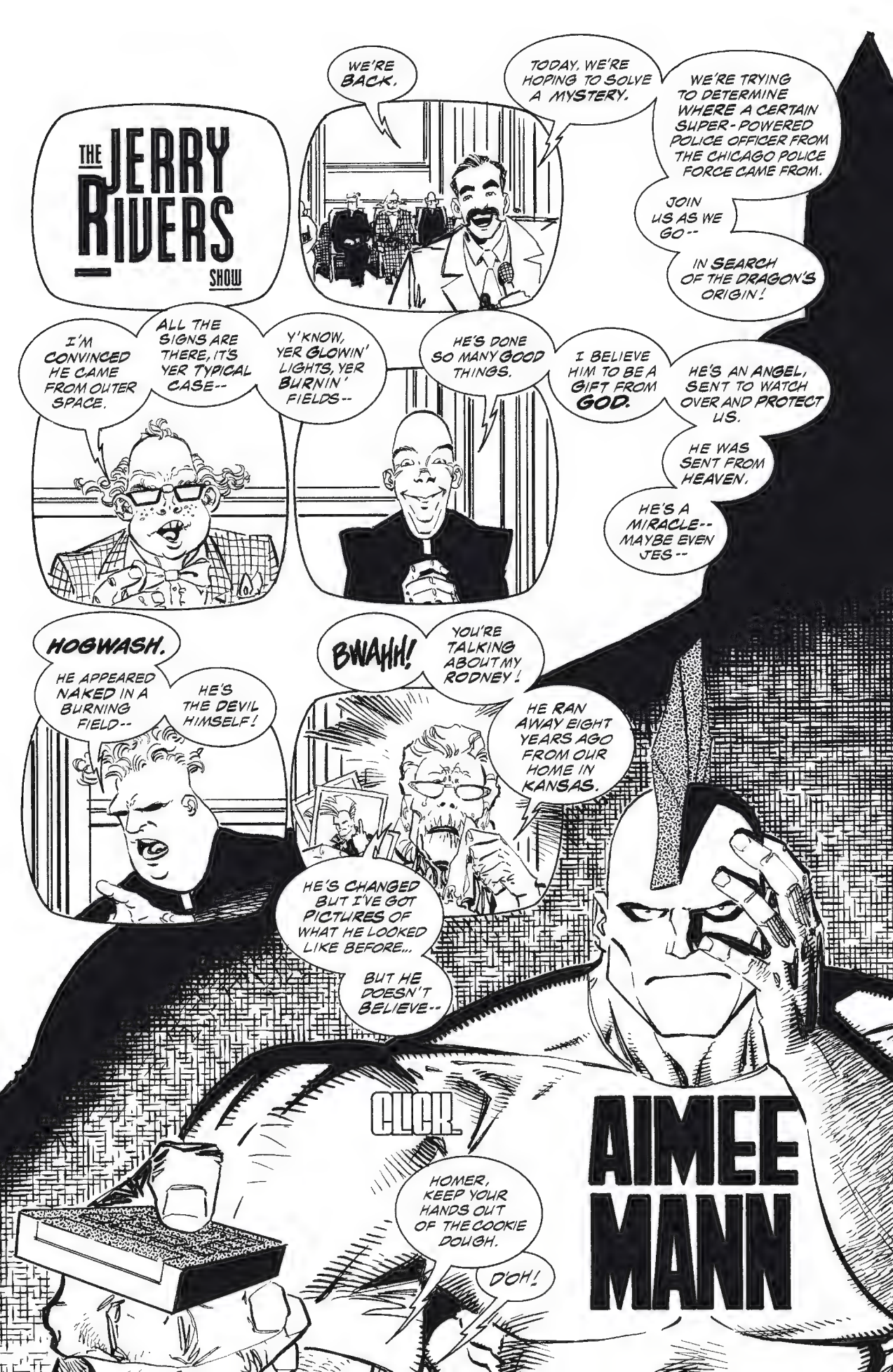
OFFICER DRAGON PERSONIFIES WHAT'S WRONG WITH SOCIETY TODAY-- IT'S THAT HIT FIRST, ASK QUESTIONS LATER MENTALITY-- THAT RAMBO ATTITUDE THAT IS DESTROYING OUR SOCIETY.
MR. RICHARDS...!
MR. RICHARDS...!
HE'S USING EXCESSIVE FORCE WHICH LEADS OTHERS TO RETALIATE IN KIND. NOW OUR CITY IS BEING DEMOLISHED BY MUSCLEBOUND CRETINS SLUGGING IT OUT, FLEXING THEIR EVER INCREASING MASS.
HELL, HIS VERY EXISTENCE CAUSES CRIME BY ENCOURAGING SUPER FREAKS TO CHALLENGE HIM. I CAN NOT REST-- I WILL NOT REST UNTIL THAT -- THAT FREAK IS OFF THE POLICE FORCE AND BEHIND BARS AS HE DESERVES TO BE!
DAMN RIGHT!
KILL THE FREAK!
MR. RICHARDS...!
DOUG HERMAN.
WHAT THE HELL...?
MY PAPER, THE CHICAGO VOICE HAS BEEN A LONE VOICE, PLEADING FOR SANITY BUT WE MUST ALL ACT AS ONE TO WIN THIS BATTLE...
MR. RICHARDS...!
MR. RICHARDS...!
MR. RICHARDS...!
I FEEL YOUR HATE.
I SENSE YOUR DESIRES.
I CAN HELP YOU.
MR. RICHARDS...!
MR. RICHARDS...!
MR. RICHARDS...!
I FEEL A STRONG HATRED WITHIN YOUR HEART.
HATRED THAT WILL GIVE US STRENGTH.
STRENGTH THAT WILL GIVE US POWER.
POWER ENOUGH TO SLAY OUR FOES.
WE REALLY MUST GET TOGETHER.

YOU'RE STARTING TO BORE ME, BAD AXE.
I'M BEGINNING TO QUESTION YOUR USEFULLNESS.
CHANGE MY MIND.
UH-- UH--
HE NEARLY KILLED THE SHREW IN A MATTER OF SECONDS, A FREAK THAT TOOK THE DRAGON SEVERAL DAYS TO FINALLY OVERCOME LAST SUMMER.
HE'S VICIOUS AND DEADLY AND VIOLENT.
HE'S CALLED MACE.
AND MY FIRM BELIEF IS THAT HE'S UNSTABLE ENOUGH TO BE TURNED TO OUR SIDE.
S... SOME OF YOUR LESSER MINIONS HAVE BEEN WIPED OUT BY THIS MAN...
I... I'VE BROUGHT FOOTAGE.
HE STARTED TAKING UP THE SLACK AFTER YOU PUT THE DRAGON OUT OF COMMISSION. HE'S A VIGILANTE WHO WIELDS A BALL AND CHAIN THAT HE USES TO DEADLY EFFECT.
HE'S EFFECTIVELY STOPPED THIRTY OF YOUR MEN.
CONTACT HIM.

RING
RING
RI
KLIK
THRILL ME.
IT'S A BOY.
CONGRATULATIONS.

THIS IS DOUG HERMAN.
DOUG HAS SPENT A LIFETIME BEING TOLD WHAT TO DO.
AND HE DOESN'T COMPLAIN.
HE DOESN'T QUESTION.
HE'S A FOLLOWER--A GUY WITH NO REAL MIND OF HIS OWN.
HE'S ONE OF THE INVISIBLE ARMY OF HUMAN BEINGS WHO MANAGE TO MAKE IT THROUGH THEIR LIVES GOING MOSTLY UNNOTICED.
R. RICHARD RICHARDS, PUBLISHER OF THE CHICAGO VOICE SPOKE OFTEN ABOUT THE EFFECT A CERTAIN SUPER-POWERED POLICE OFFICER HAS HAD ON THE CITY.
A NEGATIVE EFFECT, OR SO HE'D HAVE HIS READERS BELIEVE.
IT WAS A LINE OF RHETORIC HALF-BELIEVED BY THE PUBLISHER, DESIGNED PRIMARILY TO PROVOKE CONTROVERSY AND SELL NEWSPAPERS.
AND DOUG HERMAN BOUGHT IT.
AND BELIEVED IT.
HIS HATRED GREW AND FESTERED.
A FIRE BURNED IN HIS AMPLE BELLY.
AND HE WAS CONSUMED BY IT.
HE'S BEEN KICKED AROUND FROM ONE DEAD-END JOB TO ANOTHER.
NEVER REACHING ANY KIND OF RANK OR IMPORTANCE.
HE DOES WHAT HE'S TOLD AND BELIEVES WHAT HE HEARS.
HE GOES ALONG WITH THE CROWD.
HE'S THE KIND OF FELLOW THAT CAN BE WORKED UP INTO A FIT OF RAGE GIVEN THE PROPER TALKING TO.
AND SO HE WAS.


THIS IS THE FIEND.
HE'S AN ENTITY THAT FEEDS ON THE EMOTIONS OF OTHERS.
HE INHABITS OTHER BEINGS' BODIES, TRANSFORMING THEM AS HE DOES TO BECOME LIKE HIMSELF.
HE USES THEM TO SERVE HIS OWN TWISTED ENDS.
HE'S FUELED BY HATE-- AND THE STRONGER THE HATE--THE MORE POWERFUL HE BECOMES.
THE FIEND HAS MET DOUG HERMAN.
IT'S A MATCH MADE IN HELL.
THE HATRED THAT BURNS WITHIN YOU IS STRONG, DOUG HERMAN.
THE FUEL FROM THAT HATRED WILL GIVE US POWER.
MORE POWER THAN YOU HAVE EVER KNOW OR EVER IMAGINED.
TOGETHER WE CAN RID THIS WORLD OF THOSE WE DESPISE.
TOGETHER, NOTHING IS BEYOND OUR GRASP!
TOGETHER-- THE PLANET IS OURS FOR THE TAKING!


THE JERRY RIVERS SHOW
WE'RE BACK.
TODAY, WE'RE HOPING TO SOLVE A MYSTERY.
WE'RE TRYING TO DETERMINE WHERE A CERTAIN SUPER-POWERED POLICE OFFICER FROM THE CHICAGO POLICE FORCE CAME FROM.
JOIN US AS WE GO--
IN SEARCH OF THE DRAGON'S ORIGIN!
I'M CONVINCED HE CAME FROM OUTER SPACE.
ALL THE SIGNS ARE THERE, IT'S YER TYPICAL CASE--
Y'KNOW, YER GLOWIN' LIGHTS, YER BURNIN' FIELDS--
HE'S DONE SO MANY GOOD THINGS.
I BELIEVE HIM TO BE A GIFT FROM GOD.
HE'S AN ANGEL, SENT TO WATCH OVER AND PROTECT US.
HE WAS SENT FROM HEAVEN.
HE'S A MIRACLE-- MAYBE EVEN JES--
HOGWASH.
HE APPEARED NAKED IN A BURNING FIELD--
HE'S THE DEVIL HIMSELF!
BWAHH!
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT MY RODNEY!
HE RAN AWAY EIGHT YEARS AGO FROM OUR HOME IN KANSAS.
HE'S CHANGED BUT I'VE GOT PICTURES OF WHAT HE LOOKED LIKE BEFORE...
BUT HE DOESN'T BELIEVE--
CLICK.
HOMER, KEEP YOUR HANDS OUT OF THE COOKIE DOUGH.
D'OH!
AIMEE MANN

WE'RE IN LOVE-- DRAGON WANTS ME TO HAVE HIS CHILDREN.
I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER--
HE'S JUST SO GORGEOUS, Y'KNOW.
STUPID BIMBO!
HE'LL DESTROY YOU--
DESTROY YOUR LIFE AS HE DID MINE!
YOU'LL WIND UP DEAD!
DEAD!
DEAD!!
KRASHH!
JUST LIKE MY LITTLE GIRL.

DROP DEAD, FREAK--
I FOLLOW MY OWN RULES.
MACE!
IF YOU'RE FROM THE VICIOUS CIRCLE-- YOU CAN JUST KEEP WALKIN'. I'M FIGHTIN' TO TAKE BACK THE CITY FOR THE COMMON MAN. I WON'T BE JOININ' UP WITH THE LIKES OF YOU.
NOT NOW.
NOT EVER.
I'M NOT FROM THE VICIOUS CIRCLE.
I'M FROM THE CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT.
AND WE WANT YOU...
...ON OUR SIDE.

NOX NOX
WHAT THE HECK?
WHO COULD THAT BE?
RAPTURE!
WHAT?
WERE YOU EXPECTING SOMEBODY ELSE?
WELL, UH...
NO.
I WASN'T EXPECTING ANYONE ACTUALLY.
I THOUGHT WE AGREED TO TAKE IT SLOW.
THIS IS SLOW.
IT'S CALLED A DATE, DUMMY.
WE'VE GOT RESERVATIONS AT 7:30 SO WE'D BETTER HUSTLE.
I'M NOT REALLY DRESSED FOR IT...
THEN GET DRESSED.
I CAN HELP IF YOU'D LIKE.
I'LL MANAGE.

LET'S ROLL, BABY.
WOW.
YOU LOOK GREAT, HONEY.
WAY TO FILL OUT A SUIT.
THANKS.
YOU'RE LOOKING JUST FINE YOURSELF.
SHALL WE GO?
WHERE ARE WE OFF TO?
CHEZ PAUL?
NICK'S FISH MARKET?
THE BILLY GOAT TAVERN?
NONE OF THE ABOVE.
WE HAVE RESERVATIONS AT THE PUMP ROOM.
NICE.
THAT'S ACROSS TOWN. I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD TAKE THE SQUAD CAR -- WHY DON'T I HAIL A CAB?
I'LL DO IT.
FWEEET!
YO, TAXI!
CHICAG
VOICE

I'VE DONE THIS BEFORE.
I'LL BET.
I'M GLAD YOU'RE LOOSENING UP, DRAGON.
SOMETIMES YOU CAN BE A BIT OF A STIFF.
I'M TRYING.
IT'S TOUGH.
THE ONLY GIRL I ALLOWED MYSELF TO GET CLOSE TO WAS BLOWN AWAY IN MY APARTMENT BY HER EX-BOYFRIEND.*
*IN IMAGE COMICS #0.
I HEARD.
LOOK, I'M SORRY IT HAPPENED BUT Y'CAN'T LET IT RUIN YOUR LIFE. THINGS HAPPEN. ROLL WITH THE PUNCHES.
GET ON WITH YOUR LIFE.
YEAH.
THAT'S WHAT I'M DOING.
I'M THE LUCKIEST GIRL ON EARTH.
NOT YET.
BUT I WOULDN'T COUNT IT OUT.
ISN'T THIS PLACE JUST THE GREATEST?
I SHOULD'VE TOLD 'EM YOU WERE COMIN' WITH ME, THEY PROBABLY WOULD'VE GIVEN US THE FIRST BOOTH--WE COULD'A GOT OUR PICTURES IN THE PAPER.
I CAN DO WITHOUT IT.
I'M TIRED OF BEING A CELEBRITY-- I JUST WANT TO DO MY JOB AND GET ON WITH--
UH OH.
I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
FLINK

DRAGON...
WE'VE COME FOR LURCH.
AW, CRAP.
IT'S VANGUARD.
I'LL HELP.
NO, NO.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS.
SURE?
YEAH.
DON'T WORRY, NOTHING WILL HAPPEN.
GUYS? CAN WE TAKE THIS OUTSIDE?

WHAT IS IT?
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO BREAK IT TO YOU GUYS--
YOUR ROBOT SPARRING PARTNER IS DUST.
JERK!
WALLY, DON'T!
YOU BE GOOD!
I'M SURE HE'S GOT A PERFECTLY GOOD EXPLANATION.
I DO.
FRAK!
LT. FRANK DARLING THOUGHT HE SHOULD BE THERE WHEN I ARRESTED OVERLORD, THE LEADER OF CHICAGO'S NOTORIOUS VICIOUS CIRCLE.
FRANK HAD BEEN-- HASSLED BY THE VICIOUS CIRCLE AND HE WANTED TO BE THERE WHEN I HAULED HIM IN. BUT IT WAS TOO DANGEROUS.
THAT'S WHERE LURCH CAME IN.
YOU PUT YOUR MORPHING ROBOT IN MY CARE AND TOLD ME HE WOULD OBEY MY COMMANDS*-- WE HATCHED A PLAN.
DISGUISED AS FRANK, HE CAME ALONG.
IT WAS PERFECT.
* SEE VANGUARD #S3-4.

BUT THEN OVERLORD DISINTEGRATED HIM--
--AND KICKED MY BUTT.*
*IT HAPPENED IN SAVAGE DRAGON #7.
FRANK IS SAFE NOW AND HE'LL STAY THAT WAY AS LONG AS OVERLORD NEVER FINDS OUT WHAT REALLY HAPPENED.
NO ONE CAN KNOW THAT HE'S STILL ALIVE.
HE DISINTEGRATED LURCH!
THEN LEMME AT 'IM!
SETTLE DOWN, WALLY--WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF OTHER MORPHLINGS UP AT THE SHIP.
SORRY, WALLY. I CAN'T HAVE THAT. THERE ARE LAWS THAT MUST BE OBEYED.
I'LL NAIL THE BASTARD-- I SWEAR.
OKAY, DRAGON,
BUT THOSE SUCKERS ARE HARD TO KILL.
IF YOU EXPECT TO GET AWAY WITH THIS CHARADE--
--YOU'D BETTER BE DARN SURE LURCH IS REALLY DEAD.
SEE?
WHAT DID I TELL YOU?

I THOUGHT FOR A MINUTE THERE THAT THEY WERE GOING TO KICK ME OUT FOR NOT WEARING A TIE.
I GUESS THEY DECIDED YOU STILL HAD ENOUGH OF ONE LEFT TO LET IT SLIDE--
OR THAT YOU WERE BIG ENOUGH THAT THEY DIDN'T WANT TO BRING IT UP.
GOIN' OUT WITH YOU IS SURE AN ADVENTURE.
SO--
DO YOU WANT TO COME UP?
MMMMMMMMM.

THAT'S OKAY.
I'LL PASS.
AFTER ALL...
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE TAKING IT SLOW.
REMEMBER?
TA TA!
CRAP.

WHAT THE HELL?

EXACTLY.
HRAKK!!

BURN, YOU BASTARD --BURN!
DIE AT THE HANDS OF THE FIEND!
THAT'S THE FIRE ALARM!
THERE'S A FIRE!
SUFFER FOR THE LIVES LOST-- FOR THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE DIED BECAUSE OF YOU.
SUFFER FOR THE CHILDREN WHO HAVE TURNED TO VIOLENCE, EMULATING YOU.
BUT MOST OF ALL-- SUFFER!
SKRAKT
EXIT

WHOOM!
A PUNCH TO THE FACE.
HOW PASSÉ! IT WON'T WORK THIS TIME.
IN CASE OF FIRE
THIS TIME THINGS ARE DIFFERENT.
THIS TIME I'VE GOT SUFFICIENT HATE TO FUEL THIS VESSEL!
ENOUGH HATE TO END YOUR MISERABLE LIFE!
HKKK!

OH MY GOD.
I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
KILL HIM!
KILL HIM!
THAT'S MY BEEPER.
I'M NEEDED.
THIS WILL HAVE TO WAIT.
WRUNK
BEEP BEEP
INNOCENT LIVES ARE AT STAKE.
YOU DO REMEMBER THE INNOCENT LIVES DON'T YOU?
I SAVE THEM, FIEND, NOT TAKE THEM.
THAT'S A LIE!
YOU SOUND LIKE THAT IDIOT, R. RICHARD RICHARDS,

I'M NOT TRYING TO SELL LIES TO MOVE NEWSPAPERS.
I'M TRYING TO SAVE LIVES.
NOW--GET OUT OF MY WAY!
YOU...
HURT ME.
YES AND I'LL DO IT SOME MORE.
WHY DID YOU ATTACK ME?
WHAT DID I EVER DO TO YOU?
NOTHING. YOU --
YOU'RE GOOD.
I HATE THAT.
YOU SEE, DRAGON, NOT ONLY AM I EVIL.
BUT I AM EVIL.
YOU'RE A FORCE FOR GOOD AND AS SUCH--
YOU MUST DIE!!
SO SAYING, THE FIEND IS REVEALED.
AND DEEP WITHIN DOUG HERMAN SOMETHING HAPPENS.
HE REALIZES THAT THE DRAGON IS TRYING TO DO GOOD.
AND HE STOPS HATING.

AND FOR THE FIEND--
--AND DOUG HERMAN--
--ALL IS LOST.
SNAP
YOU WIN AGAIN BUT I'LL DEFEAT YOU YET.
YOU WILL DIE AT MY HANDS.
THERE EXISTS A VESSEL THAT HATES YOU MORE THAN EVEN I,
AND WHEN I AM UNITED WITH THAT VESSEL--
BE FOREWARNED..
I'LL BE BACK.

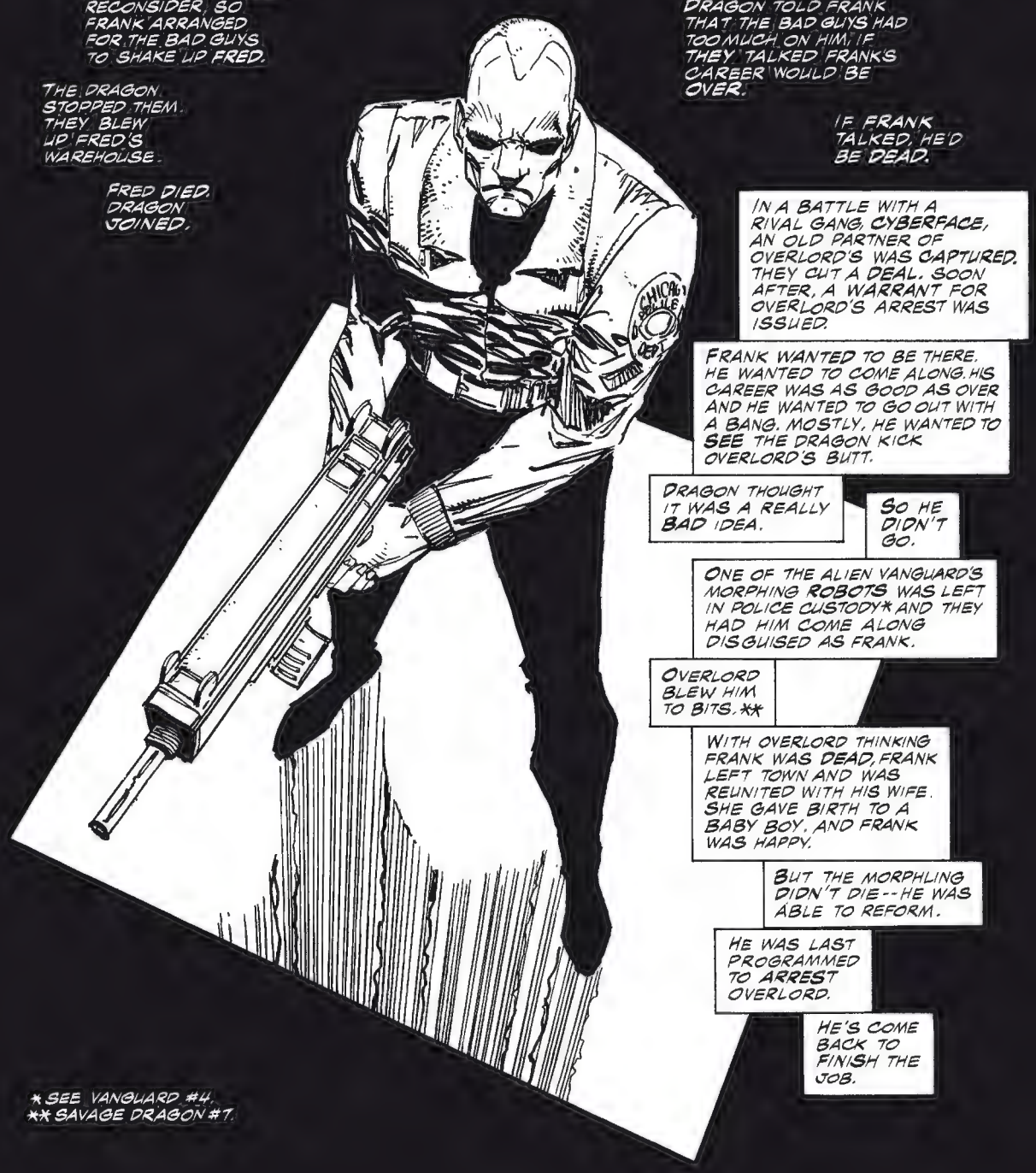
YOU...
..WANTED TO SEE ME, SIR?
I'M SORRY OUR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN MACE HAVE BEEN FRUITLESS, BUT I ASSURE YOU...
THAT'S NOT WHY I CALLED YOU IN HERE, ASSASSIN.
YOU WERE IN CHARGE OF KILLING CYBERFACE.
HE ALONE KNOWS WHO I AM.
HE ALONE KNOWS MY FACE.
HE KNOWS TOO MUCH.
IT SEEMS THERE WAS A BODY NOT PROPERLY DISPOSED OF.
IT'S BEEN RESTORED TO LIFE BY PROJECT: BORN AGAIN.
CYBERFACE LIVES AGAIN AND YOU FAILED TO STOP IT.
WHEN OVERLORD KILLS SOMEBODY...
THEY STAY DEAD.

NOBODY BEATS OVERPOWER!

KHOOM!
GOOD GOSH-- THAT FALLING DEBRIS HURT SOMEBODY!
IT'S A GIRL.
HELP HER, MIGHTY MAN-- HELP HER!
NO!
DON'T TOUCH HER!
YOU MAY CAUSE MORE HARM THAN...
BAH! FORGET HER, MIGHTY MAN--
YOU'VE GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO CONTEND WITH--
YOUR OWN DEATH!
DARN.

THAT DOES IT!
IT'S BAD ENOUGH THAT THE ONLY REASON YOU'RE FIGHTING ME IS BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO CHALLENGE ME FOR THE TITLE "THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MAN."
BUT NOW SOMEBODY'S BEEN HURT!
AND MISTER-- THAT'S NOT RIGHT!
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
POW!

SWEET.
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST, SCUMBAG.
MISTER DRAGON--IS HE...?
HE'LL LIVE.
DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT HIM--THERE'S SOMEBODY ELSE WHO NEEDS YOUR HELP.
I'M CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE SPINAL DAMAGE--I'M GOING TO GO GRAB AN AMBULANCE AND TRAINED MEDICAL PERSONEL FROM HILLMAN HOSPITAL.
YOU DO THAT, M.M.--I'LL MAKE SURE THIS TRASH IS PROPERLY DISPOSED OF.
GET FLYING, FELLOW.


THINGS HAVE GOTTEN COMPLICATED.
IN THE BEGINNING, LT. FRANK DARLING GOT THE DRAGON A JOB WORKING FOR HIS COUSIN FRED, TO KEEP HIM OUT OF TROUBLE.
THINGS WENT FROM BAD TO WORSE IN CHICAGO AND FRANK TRIED TO GET THE DRAGON TO JOIN THE POLICE FORCE.
HE WOULDN'T.
FRANK THOUGHT IF HE SAW WHAT THEY WERE UP AGAINST, FIRST HAND, THAT HE'D RECONSIDER. SO FRANK ARRANGED FOR THE BAD GUYS TO SHAKE UP FRED.
THE DRAGON STOPPED THEM. THEY BLEW UP FRED'S WAREHOUSE.
FRED DIED. DRAGON JOINED.
FRANK'S SCHEME WAS DISCOVERED BY CHICAGO'S MOST POWERFUL CRIMINAL ORGINIZATION, THE VICIOUS CIRCLE.
THEIR LEADER OVERLORD FORCED FRANK TO MISDIRECT DRAGON -- TO KEEP HIM OUT OF THEIR HAIR
THEIR THREATS ESCALATED, THEY BROKE HIS WIFE'S LEG.
SHE LEFT.
FRANK CAME CLEAN WITH THE DRAGON -- SPILLED HIS GUTS.
DRAGON DIDN'T KILL HIM.
DRAGON TOLD FRANK THAT THE BAD GUYS HAD TOO MUCH ON HIM. IF THEY TALKED FRANK'S CAREER WOULD BE OVER.
IF FRANK TALKED, HE'D BE DEAD.
IN A BATTLE WITH A RIVAL GANG, CYBERFACE, AN OLD PARTNER OF OVERLORD'S WAS CAPTURED. THEY CUT A DEAL. SOON AFTER, A WARRANT FOR OVERLORD'S ARREST WAS ISSUED.
FRANK WANTED TO BE THERE. HE WANTED TO COME ALONG. HIS CAREER WAS AS GOOD AS OVER AND HE WANTED TO GO OUT WITH A BANG. MOSTLY, HE WANTED TO SEE THE DRAGON KICK OVERLORD'S BUTT.
DRAGON THOUGHT IT WAS A REALLY BAD IDEA.
SO HE DIDN'T GO.
ONE OF THE ALIEN VANGUARD'S MORPHING ROBOTS WAS LEFT IN POLICE CUSTODY* AND THEY HAD HIM COME ALONG DISGUISED AS FRANK.
OVERLORD BLEW HIM TO BITS.**
WITH OVERLORD THINKING FRANK WAS DEAD, FRANK LEFT TOWN AND WAS REUNITED WITH HIS WIFE. SHE GAVE BIRTH TO A BABY BOY, AND FRANK WAS HAPPY.
BUT THE MORPHLING DIDN'T DIE -- HE WAS ABLE TO REFORM.
HE WAS LAST PROGRAMMED TO ARREST OVERLORD.
HE'S COME BACK TO FINISH THE JOB.
* SEE VANGUARD #4.
** SAVAGE DRAGON #7.

GOOD LORD...
IT CAN'T BE.

HOW MANY TIMES MUST I KILL YOU?
SKRAKKABOOM!
BE GONE, FILTHY APPARITION!
BE GONE!!
OVERLORD COMMANDS IT!
SOMETHING IS VERY WRONG HERE.

"VERY WRONG INDEED.
"ABOMINATIONS, SUCH AS YOU HAVE NO PLACE ON THIS OR ANY POLICE FORCE."
"MY SON JOEY THINKS YOU'RE THE GREATEST.
"HIS BIRTHDAY IS SEPTEMBER 5TH AND WE'D BE HONORED IF YOU COULD FIND IT IN YOUR HEART TO PAY US A VISIT..."
"YOU WERE PROBABLY BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE LIZARD OR SOMETHING.
"THAT'S THE ONLY POSSIBLE EXPLANATION I CAN THINK OF TO EXPLAIN YOUR HEALING POWERS AND YOUR GREEN SKIN."
"DRAGON, MY DARLING, YOU HURT ME REAL BAD--AND YOU KNOW IT'S TRUE.
"BUT BABY, YOU GOTTA BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY--
"I'M HELPLESS WITHOUT YOU."
ENOUGH, PLEASE.
ENOUGH.
I BEG OF YOU...
MERCY.
"MY DAUGHTER SAYS THAT YOU FATHERED HER CHILD WHEN YOU WERE IN SACRAMENTO, EXTRADITING DEATHJOB."
YOU DOG, YOU.
"WE WERE CLOSE FRIENDS AND NOW YOU PROBABLY DON'T EVEN REMEMBER ME.
"THE ALIENS WHO ABDUCTED YOU MUST HAVE ERASED YOUR MEMORY..."

"OR I'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING DRASTIC..."
DON'T DO IT!
HA HA.
WAIT, IT GETS BETTER--
IT SAYS YOU OWE HIM SOME MONEY!
I GOT ONE THAT SAYS HE'S GOT A NOISY NEIGHBOR HE WANTS YOU TO CLOBBER.
HECK, I'LL DO IT.
I COULD USE THE EXERCISE.
I THOUGHT I GOT A LOT OF CRACKPOT MAIL BEFORE!
THE JERRY RIVERS SHOW HAS REALLY OPENED THE FLOODGATES.
THERE OUGHT TO BE A LAW...

C'MON, IT'S GOT TO FEEL GREAT TO HAVE ALL THESE FOLKS ADMIRING YOU, LOOKING UP TO YOU, TRYING TO HELP...
TRYING TO CASH IN OR EXPLOIT ME IS MORE LIKE IT.
HA!
HERE'S A GOOD ONE.
THEY'RE NO HELP AT ALL.
I'VE PRETTY MUCH RESIGNED MYSELF TO THE IDEA THAT I'LL NEVER FIND OUT WHERE I CAME FROM.
DRAGON, LISTEN UP.
ALEX, PLEASE.
CAN'T WE JUST TOSS THIS JUNK OUT?
AW...
YOU'RE NO FUN ANYMORE.
YOU'RE JUST CRANKY 'CAUSE YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S OFF SAVING THE UNIVERSE.*
*SEE FREAK FORCE #S 8-9.
OKAY, OKAY, WHAT IS IT?
I'M PAST THE POINT OF CARING.
IT'S FROM SOME GIRL NAMED AMY BELCHER!
"DEAR DRAGON,"
"I'M YOUR BIGGEST FAN."
"I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU AGAIN."
"I STOPPED HEARING VOICES -- THE DOCTORS SAY I'M CURED. I'M GETTING OUT SOON AND I'M DITCHING ALL MY OLD FRIENDS."
"I WANT TO BE YOUR PARTNER."
"I DON'T WANT TO BE IN THE NIXED MEN ANYMORE, I WANT TO BE CALLED SHE-DRAGON NOW." HA HA HA HA HA
YOU'RE NOT LAUGHING.
IT ISN'T FUNNY.

IT'S THE REAL THING, MAN.
GUARANTEED TO DO JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED.
YOU WON'T HAVE A PROBLEM IN THE WORLD.
BITCHIN'.
PROBLEMS, I DON'T NEED.
⇒GASP⇐
SUPERPATRIOT!
OH NO.
CRASH!

DAMMIT.
RUN, LARRY.
I AM. I AM.
OH, GEEZ, HE'S...
WE GIVE UP, MAN!
WE GIVE UP!
YEAH, MAN, TAKE THE CHIPS--
THEY AIN'T WORTH THIS KIND OF GRIEF.
COMPUTER CHIPS? I THOUGHT YOU WERE SELLING DRUGS.
WHAT HAVE I STUMBLED ONTO?
I THINK I'LL JUST SHUT UP IF YOU DON'T MIND.

WHAT'S UP WITH THAT MACE GUY, ANYWAY?
WAS THAT SERIOUS?
YEAH, I GUESS.
THE VICIOUS CIRCLE WAS TRYING TO RECRUIT HIM.
CAPTAIN STEWART THOUGHT WE SHOULD GET HIM.
HE SAID "NO" OF COURSE.
TO BOTH OF US.
IT'S JUST AS WELL.
YOU THINK DART HAD TROUBLE WITH EXCESSIVE FORCE...
THERE'S A BREAK IN AT DONNER ELECTRONICS-- SOME SUPER FREAK TORE INTO THE GUARDS LIKE AN ANIMAL. THIS ONE'S FOR YOU, OFFICER DRAGON.
CRAP.
THAT'S CLEAR ACROSS TOWN.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE SAW SOME ACTION TOGETHER, DRAGON.
LET'S GO GET 'EM.

AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN *ALERTED*, MY FRIEND.
THEY'LL *BE* HERE SOON.
THERE'S NO *NEED* FOR A CONFRONTATION, I *HAVE* WHAT I CAME FOR.
LET'S GO HOME.
UP.

CRASH!!
GUARDS, SLAUGHTERED LIKE PIGS.
WHAT KIND OF ANIMAL WOULD DO SUCH A THING?
NOT THE KIND OF OPPOSITION I EXPECTED TO FIND--
HUH?
BUT YOU'LL DO.

CRASH!

I DON'T LIKE TO HIT A LADY--
BUT THAT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM--
KRUNK!
YOU'RE NO LADY!
IF THAT'S THE LEVEL OF SNAPPY PATTER THAT I CAN LOOK FORWARD TO--
WHAM!!!
THEN SHUT THE HECK UP!
UNNGH!
KLUNK!

HOLD STILL, DANG IT.
SORRY, MISS, NO CAN DO!
OH-- POOP!
KLATTER.
WHO ARE THESE FOOLS?
DOES SUPERPATRIOT KNOW YOU'RE WEARING HIS OLD PAJAMAS?
OH LORDY.

DRAGON! GREAT TO SEE YOU AGAIN! *
I'M AMY BELCHER--
YOU KNOW... THE SHE-DRAGON.
SHE-DRAGON?
YEAH, YEAH.
CUTE.
*THEY MET IN THE SAVAGE DRAGON VS. THE SAVAGE MEGATON MAN #1.
WHY DID YOU BREAK IN HERE, MISS BELCHER?
I DIDN'T. I HEARD THE CALL AND THOUGHT I SHOULD HELP.
WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE, MISTER--?
JUSTICE.
MUCH THE SAME. I'M FOLLOWING A TRAIL OF STOLEN...
IDIOTS.
YOU PRACTICALLY LEVELED THE PLACE FIGHTING EACH OTHER.
THERE'S A CHANCE THAT THE REAL BAD GUY IS STILL HERE, IF YOU KIDS DIDN'T SCARE HIM OFF.
I'M GOING TO SCOUT AROUND AND SEE IF I CAN FIND HIM.
OKAY, DRAGON.
I'LL HELP!

FAT CHANCE.
ALEX, KEEP AN EYE ON THEM. IF EITHER ONE MOVES--SHOOT TO KILL.
HMMPH. INGRATE.
HE DIDN'T MEAN THAT.
DID HE?
I'M ASSUMING HE DID.
CLATTER
KLIK
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
DRAT!

RUN MY FRIEND!
I'LL DEAL WITH HIM.
YOU'RE DREAMING, PIPSQUEAK.
I'LL RIP YOU IN HALF.
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT...
JESUS!
[LOMP!]

CRASH!
WHA
WHAT IN THE--?
POW!
CHOOM
DRAGON!
OH MY GOD--!

HRUNKK!
AAAIIIII!
OH, YUCK.
PTOO!

GET AN AMBULANCE-- KEEP AN EYE ON THE SUCKER'S TONGUE -- MAYBE THE DOCTORS CAN SEW IT BACK ON.
WELL, THAT WAS NICE AND GROSS.
I THINK I'M GOING TO BE SICK.
IT'S NOT OVER. THIS CREEP'S PARTNER JUST TOOK OFF THROUGH THE ATTIC WINDOW.
HE'S SOME KIND OF OCTOPUS LOOKING GUY.
HE COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN FAR.
THAT'S OKAY, JUST LEAVE ME HERE.
I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON...
ON...

NOTHING, HUH? DAMN.
WHERE'S THAT FLAG GUY?
HE JUST LEFT.
WHAT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "WHAT?" HE TOOK OFF. WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? YOU GET ON MY CASE FOR FIGHTING HIM, AND NOW YOU'RE BITCHIN' CAUSE I LET HIM GO.
MAKE UP YOUR MIND, DO YOU WANT HIM OR NOT?
THAT'S JUST SWELL.
YOU'RE A BIMBO, YOU KNOW THAT?
THAT'S A FINE WAY TO TREAT YOUR PARTNER.
YOU'RE NOT MY PARTNER.
YOU'LL NEVER BE MY PARTNER.
YOU'RE USELESS, WORSE THAN THAT.
YOU'RE COMING WITH ME TO THE STATION. COME ON.
POOP.
COULD I BE YOUR GIRLFRIEND, THEN?

OVERLORD SAYS THIS SUCKER WAS FRANK DARLING-- THAT FRANKIE SHOWED UP AGAIN, ALIVE, TRYIN' TO ARREST HIM.
THAT AIN'T POSSIBLE, 'CAUSE OVERLORD ALREADY FRIED HIM ONCE BEFORE.
OVERLORD WANTS AN EXPLANATION.
HMMM, YES.
REMAINS... QUITE FINE.
STILL... PICTURE'S CLEAR.
THIS... NOT HUMAN... NOT DARLING.
NEVER WAS.

THEY ARE THE WILDC.A.T.S, THEY HAVE UNITED TO FIGHT A SEEMINGLY ENDLESS BATTLE AGAINST THE MONSTROUS DAEMONITES.
THEY ARE KHERUBIM AND KHERUBIM CROSSBREEDS, BIOSYNTHETIC HUMANOIDS, COSMICALLY ENDOWED COSMONAUTS AND HUMANS, BANDIED TOGETHER FOR A SINGLE PURPOSE, TO STOP THE DAEMONITES IN ALL THEIR VARIOUS FORMS.
THEY ARE SWORN TO HALT THE DAEMONITES' REUNIFICATION PLANS AT ANY COST. BE THEY THE CABAL OR OTHER FACTIONS, THE WILDC.A.T.S HAVE PLEDGED TO STOP THEM.
STRONGHOLD
CASE IN POINT-- STRONGHOLD.
HE WAS THE MOST POWERFUL MEMBER OF A DAEMONITE FRAGMENT GROUP CALLED THE WARBREED.
HE DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE.

VOID

ZEALOT

SPARTAN

GRIFTER

MAUL

WARBLADE

GREAT.

JUST GREAT.

ANOTHER *DAEMONITE* PLOT FOILED.

ANOTHER *VICTORY* FOR THE *GOOD* GUYS!

I THINK YER GETTIN' THE *HANG* OF THIS, KIDS!

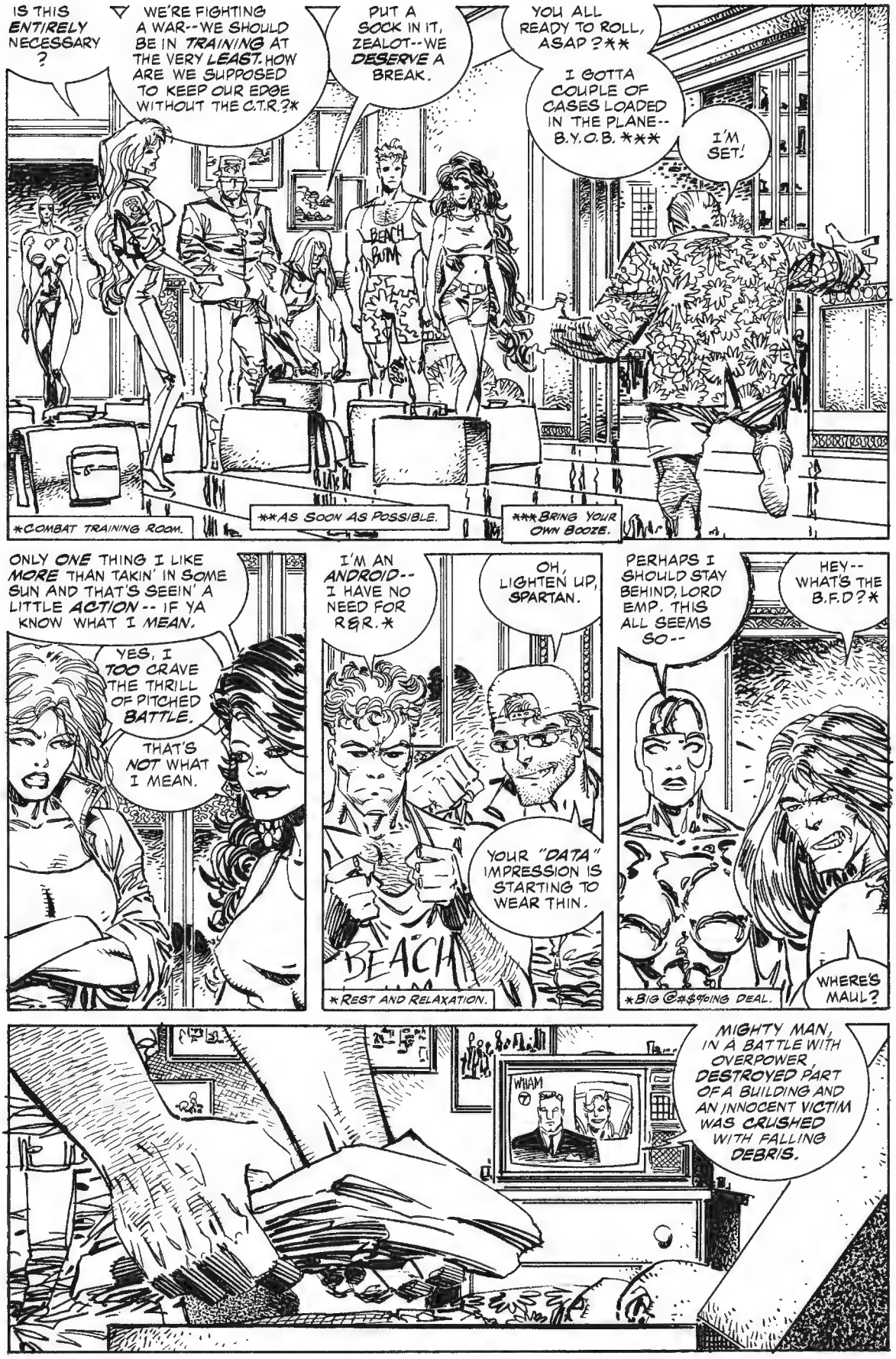
EMP

VOODOO

MARLOWE--
THERE YOU ARE!
WE'VE BEEN WORKIN' OUR BUTTS OFF!
I REALIZE THAT WE'RE AT WAR WITH THE DAEMONITES AND ALL, BUT YOU PROMISED US A BREAK AFTER WE FINISHED OUR NEXT ASSIGNMENT --
THAT WAS FOUR MISSIONS AGO --
WHERE'S OUR VACATION?
I'M SORRY, PRIS-- SORRY.
THINGS CAME UP. THIS IS IMPORTANT WORK WE'RE DOING--THE FATE OF THE ENTIRE GALAXY HANGS IN THE BALANCE OF--
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT, MARLOWE.
GIVE ME A VACATION OR YOUR FATE IS HANGING IN THE BALANCE--!
OKAY, OKAY... !
ENOUGH, ALREADY. I GET THE PICTURE.
I'VE GOT JUST THE TICKET. I OWN AN ISLAND IN THE CARIBBEAN --WE CAN STAY THERE WITHOUT BEING BOTHERED.
YOU CAN GET A LITTLE SUN AND SOME TIME TO RECHARGE YOUR BATTERY.
OKAY--!
THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!
PACK YOUR BAGS--
WHO LOVES YA', BABY?

HOLD STILL--QUIT FIDGETING.
YOU NEVER SHOULD HAVE PUT YOUR HEAD IN THAT GUY'S MOUTH --YOU'RE JUST ASKING FOR AN INFECTION.
I'LL TRY AND KEEP THAT IN MIND NEXT TIME.
ALL BETTER.
THANKS, MISS STEVENS.
ANN.
ANN.
THANKS, ANN.
YOU'RE WELCOME.
THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT--
DRAGON!
IT'S THAT OCTOPUS GUY.
I THINK WE'VE FOUND HIM.
I'M RIGHT BEHIND YOU.
I GOT A TIP THAT HE'S HOLED UP IN THE UNDERGROUND.
OFFICER DRAGON!

I'M GUY GUSWELL. I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO PETER KLAPTIN.
OFFICER DRAGON, I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO MEET YOU.
I'M A BIG FAN.
THE THINGS YOU'VE DONE FOR CHICAGO ARE JUST GREAT! YOU'VE INSTILLED THE POPULACE WITH A NEW SENSE OF HOPE-- YOU'VE REALLY HELPED CHANGE THE WORLD'S PERCEPTION OF MY FAVORITE CITY!
ARE YOU FREE FOR LUNCH SOMETIME? I'VE GOT SOME IDEAS THAT MIGHT INTEREST YOU--
MY GIRLFRIEND'S FOND OF YOUR MUSIC, MISTER KLAPTIN.
IF I COULD TALK YOU INTO A COUPLE OF TICKETS, I MIGHT JUST --
DRAGON-- WE REALLY OUGHT TO GO-- WE'VE GOT A FUGITIVE TO CHASE!
WE'LL TALK...
LATER.
NICE MEETING YOU.
THAT REMINDS ME -- I THINK I'M SUPPOSED TO BE SOMEWHERE...
OH BROTHER-- NOT THIS AGAIN.


IS THIS ENTIRELY NECESSARY ?
WE'RE FIGHTING A WAR--WE SHOULD BE IN TRAINING AT THE VERY LEAST. HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO KEEP OUR EDGE WITHOUT THE C.T.R.?*
PUT A SOCK IN IT, ZEALOT--WE DESERVE A BREAK.
YOU ALL READY TO ROLL, ASAP ?**
I GOTTA COUPLE OF CASES LOADED IN THE PLANE-- B.Y.O.B. ***
I'M SET!
BEACH BUM
*COMBAT TRAINING ROOM.
**AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
***BRING YOUR OWN BOOZE.
ONLY ONE THING I LIKE MORE THAN TAKIN' IN SOME SUN AND THAT'S SEEIN' A LITTLE ACTION -- IF YA KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
YES, I TOO CRAVE THE THRILL OF PITCHED BATTLE.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN.
I'M AN ANDROID-- I HAVE NO NEED FOR R&R.*
OH, LIGHTEN UP, SPARTAN.
YOUR "DATA" IMPRESSION IS STARTING TO WEAR THIN.
BEACH
*REST AND RELAXATION.
PERHAPS I SHOULD STAY BEHIND, LORD EMP. THIS ALL SEEMS SO--
HEY-- WHAT'S THE B.F.D?*
WHERE'S MAUL?
*BIG C#$%ING DEAL.
WHAM
MIGHTY MAN, IN A BATTLE WITH OVERPOWER, DESTROYED PART OF A BUILDING AND AN INNOCENT VICTIM WAS CRUSHED WITH FALLING DEBRIS.

THE WOMAN HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS MARGO SILVA, A STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.
MIGHTY MAN FAILED TO RESCUE THE FALLEN WOMAN DESPITE REPEATED PLEAS FOR HELP.
OH MY LORD-- MARGO.
IT'S UNLIKELY THE WOMAN WILL EVER WALK AGAIN, DOCTORS SAY.
NO-- IT CAN'T BE!
MISS SILVA IS IN A COMA AT HILLMAN HOSPITAL.
NO!!
HEY, MAUL-- JEREMY-- YOU'RE HOLDING UP THE WHOLE PARTY--!
SINGER, PETER KLAPTIN IS IN THE NEWS AGAIN--
MAUL?

EVENING, MA'AM.
HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?
I SENSED YOUR HATRED, MRS. HARRIS-- IT'S POSITIVELY INTOXICATING.
YOU WANT TO KILL THE DRAGON--
I'D LIKE TO HELP.
WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?
I THOUGHT THAT WOULD GET YOUR ATTENTION.
WITHOUT A VESSEL I HAVE NO FORM OR POWER. I'M FUELED BY HATRED SUCH AS THAT YOU FEEL FOR THE DRAGON.
LET ME JOIN YOU AND TOGETHER WE CAN ELIMINATE BOTH OF OUR PROBLEM.
TALK TO ME.

I CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT!
EEEEAUGH!
I HAVE A FEELING THAT WE'RE GOING TO BE REALLY GOOD FRIENDS!

TAKE THIS.
I'LL PASS.
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING-- THERE ARE HOMELESS SUPER FREAKS DOWN THERE. EVEN YOU ARE GOING TO NEED SOME EXTRA MUSCLE.
PUT THAT TOY AWAY, JULIAN, THIS CALLS FOR A LITTLE DISCRETION.
THOSE FREAKS WILL TEAR ME APART--I'M NOT GOING DOWN THERE WITHOUT ANY PROTECTION.
I THOUGHT YOU CARRIED YOUR "PROTECTION" IN YOUR WALLET.
IF YOU START SHOOTING DOWN THERE, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LAST THIRTY SECONDS. IF YOU WON'T GO WITHOUT A WEAPON, THEN LET ME FLY SOLO AND YOU CAN PLUG ANYBODY WHO RESEMBLES AN OCTOPUS THAT HEADS OUT THE EXIT.
UH.
UH.
UH.
I STILL THINK I SHOULD--
STAY HERE.
HEY, SAILOR-- LOOKING FOR A GOOD TIME?
?

I'M SHOCKED THAT YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE ME --HAS IT REALLY BEEN THAT LONG?
STAR!
RIGHT THE FIRST TIME.
ALTHOUGH MY UNDEROOS DO KIND OF GIVE IT AWAY.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HAIR?
I HAD A RUN IN WITH YOUR OLD DANCING PARTNER INFERNO--
BUT HEY, IT'S CHEAPER THAN A BARBER!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
IT'S NICE TO SEE YOU TOO, HANDSOME.
JUST CALL ME "MISTER I-LOVE-ADVENTURE!"
LOOK, YOU CAN TAG ALONG IF YOU WANT--
JUST DON'T DO ANYTHING STUPID.
STUPID? ME?
YOU DON'T KNOW ME VERY WELL, DO YOU.
I'VE BEEN LUCKY, I GUESS.

FREAK FORCE HEADQUARTERS. CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.
=WHEW= IT'S GREAT TO BE HOME AGAIN!
THEY ARE THE OUTCASTS -- FREAKS, MUTANTS, CYBORGS AND CENTURIES OLD MYSTICAL ENTITIES. THEY HAVE JOINED TOGETHER AS A FIGHTING UNIT TO POLICE THEIR OWN.
THEY HOPE TO GUIDE BY EXAMPLE, TO SHOW THAT THEIR KIND NEEDN'T BE FEARED. THAT, LIKE OTHER LIVING BEINGS, THEY SHOULD BE JUDGED BY THEIR DEEDS, NOT THEIR APPEARANCE.
MEANWHILE, THE PAY THE RENT AS BOUNTY HUNTERS, HAULING IN SUPER-POWERED CRIMINALS.
NEXT TIME WE MAKE A TREK TO ANOTHER COUNTRY LET'S GET PERMISSION TO GO THERE FIRST.
I THOUGHT I'D NEVER GET OUT OF JAIL!*
WE WOULDN'T LEAVE YOU TO ROT, BARBARIC!
TEMPTING AS IT WAS.
IS IT OKAY IF I GO SEE MY HONEY?
IF I DON'T GET LAID SOON, I'M GONNA GO NUTS.
SUPERPATRIOT
RICOCHET
DART
BARBARIC
RAPTURE
BARBARIC IS STARTING TO LOOK GOOD.
*SEE FREAK FORCE #9.
DID I MISS ANYTHING?
HORRIDUS
MIGHTY MAN WAS IN A FIGHT WITH OVERPOWER -- THEY SMASHED SOME BUILDING AND A WOMAN WAS CRUSHED UNDER FALLING DEBRIS.
MIGHTY MAN IS TAKING IT PRETTY HARD.
HE'S NEVER HAD TO DEAL WITH ANYTHING QUITE LIKE THIS BEFORE.
SORRY I ASKED.
MIGHTY MAN'S BEEN SPENDING A LOT OF TIME AT THE HOSPITAL, VISITING HER.

HILLMAN HOSPITAL...
YOU CAN'T KNOW HOW SORRY I AM THAT THIS HAPPENED.
EMERGEN
OVERPOWER WAS THREATENING TO DESTROY THE CITY--
IT WAS A LIFE OR DEATH SITUATION WITH NO TIME TO THINK. I HAD TO ACT INSTINCTIVELY --THERE WASN'T ANY CHOICE, THE STAKES WERE TOO HIGH.
YOU GOT CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE.
IF I COULD TRADE PLACES WITH YOU, I WOULD. BUT THESE POWERS DON'T WORK THAT WAY.
MY PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU IF THAT MEANS ANYTHING TO... HUH?
WHAT THE--
YOU!!
ULP.

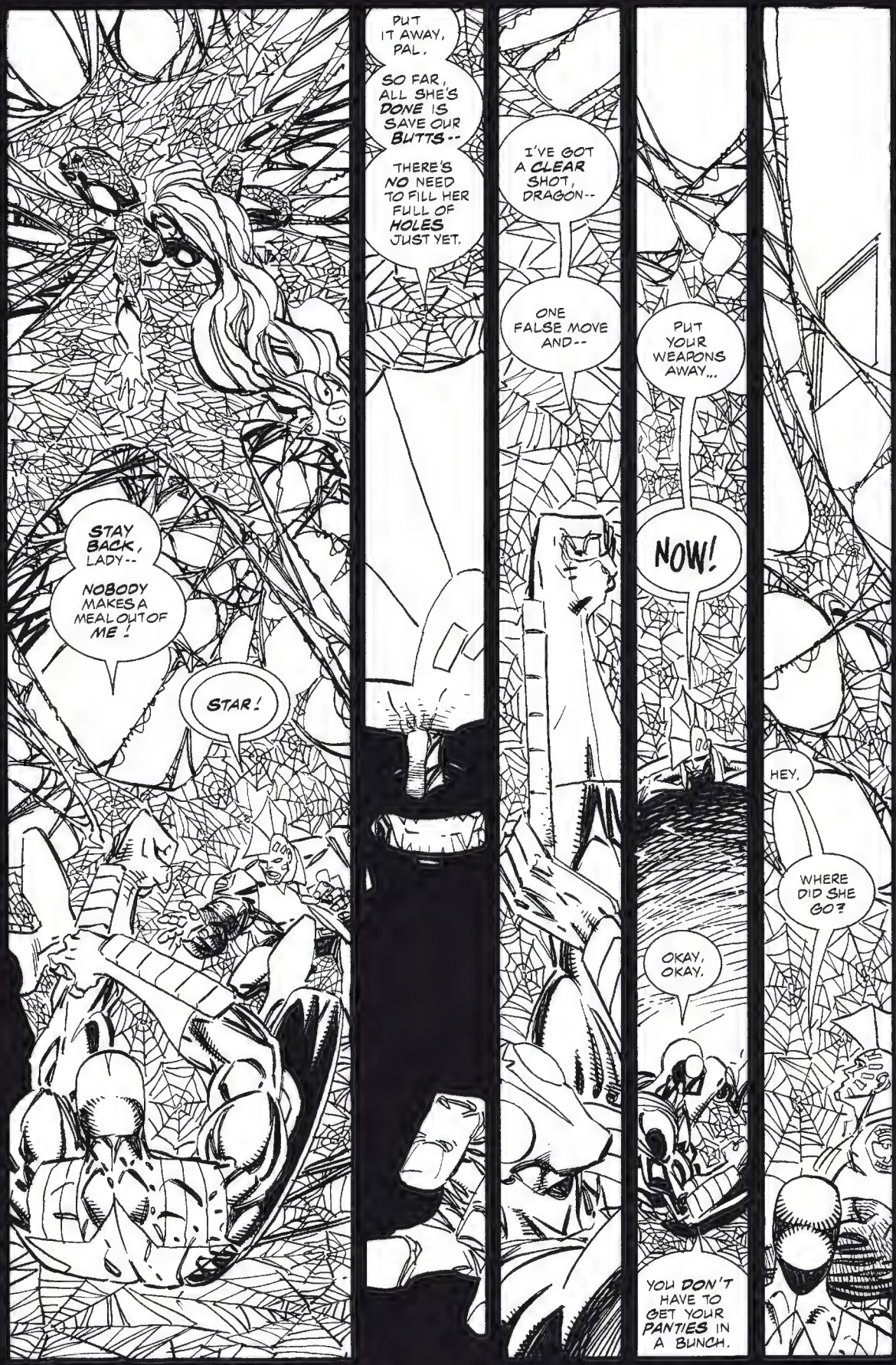
AW, COME ON, YA BIG LUG--LIGHTEN UP!
I'M REALLY NOT A BAD GUY ONCE YOU GET TO KNOW ME!
NOW WHY WOULD I WANT TO DO THAT?
OH, I GET IT-- I'M A "VIGILANTE"-- YOU'RE A POLICE OFFICER -- THEREFORE I'M SCUM OF THE EARTH.
WELL, LISTEN FELLA-- I DO A LOT OF GOOD IN THIS TOWN. I'VE SAVED ALL KINDS OF LIVES AND I HAVEN'T TAKEN SO MUCH AS A DIME FOR MY SERVICES!
I'VE INSTILLED MY SHARE OF "HOPE" FOR THE POPULACE TOO, Y'KNOW--
WE'RE BOTH FIGHTING THE SAME BATTLE!
IN ANY CASE-- I GOT WIND THAT YOU'RE CHASING A FUGITIVE AND I THOUGHT I MIGHT JUST PITCH IN AND LEND A HAND!
I MEAN-- I SAVED AMANDA MILLS WHEN THOSE KIDNAPPERS HAD HER AND YOU WERE HELPLESS.
RIGHT? AM I RIGHT?
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE WITHOUT ME?
I WOULD HAVE SHOT THE BASTARD THAT HELD HER IN THE FOREHEAD. I HAD A GUN.
ALL YOU DID WAS KEEP THAT PRICK ALIVE.
THANKS.
AAARGH!
RIGHT BETWEEN THE EYES!
NOW I KNOW HOW HE'D HAVE FELT!
COULD YOU KEEP IT DOWN?
I WAS KIND OF HOPING TO MAINTAIN SOME ELEMENT OF SURPRISE WITH THESE GUYS.
I'M FEELING NO LOVE.
KRUNCH

SPAK!
WHOOPS!
CRAP.
OOOOF!
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING, I SWEAR!
I DIDN'T TOUCH A THING.
OH, MAN...
NOW WHAT DO WE DO?
RELAX.
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH, JUST YET.
UH OH-- I'VE GOT THE FEELING --
WE'RE NOT ALONE!

BASTARD!

HAVEN'T YOU DONE ENOUGH DAMAGE, HUH?
OR DID YOU WANT TO FINISH THE JOB, MIGHTY MAN?
GOOD LORD--
IT'S SOME KIND OF MONSTER!
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT, PRETTY BOY.
NOW YOU GET THE BIG BEAT DOWN!
IN OTHER WORDS--
MAUL WILL SMASH!
BRAHADOOM!
WHUD WHUD

EEP!


STAY BACK, LADY--
NOBODY MAKES A MEAL OUT OF ME!
STAR!
PUT IT AWAY, PAL.
SO FAR, ALL SHE'S DONE IS SAVE OUR BUTTS--
THERE'S NO NEED TO FILL HER FULL OF HOLES JUST YET.
I'VE GOT A CLEAR SHOT, DRAGON--
ONE FALSE MOVE AND--
PUT YOUR WEAPONS AWAY...
NOW!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET YOUR PANTIES IN A BUNCH.
OKAY, OKAY.
HEY.
WHERE DID SHE GO?

RUNK.
GET OFF OF ME, YOU CREEP.
YOU HURT MAUL.
I'M NOT CALLED "THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MAN" FOR NOTHING.
BRAKKAWHUMPH.

YOU HURT GIRL, NOW I HURT YOU--
GET BIGGER-- SMASH YOU.
NOT IF WE CAN HELP IT.
YEE-HAW!
YER INTERFERING WITH MY LOVE LIFE, MISTER --
THAT AIN'T PUT ME IN A GOOD MOOD.
FREEZE, JERK.
THE PARTY'S OVER-- IT'S TIME TO CALL IT A DAY.
WHA--?
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK--

OH, GREAT.
IF IT ISN'T ONE THING, IT'S ANOTHER.
WE'RE SURROUNDED.
HOW ABOUT IF I FIRE OFF A FEW THROWING STARS AND WE GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE?
COOL IT.
YOU'RE INTRUDERS HERE.
LEAVE.

LISTEN, FELLOW--WE DON'T MEAN YOU ANY HARM.
OR AT LEAST, I DON'T.
I'M SEARCHING FOR A FUGITIVE. THERE IS A MAN, PART OCTOPUS, THAT IS BELIEVED TO BE HIDING HERE. HE'S A MURDERER.
I'M REQUESTING PERMISSION TO SEARCH FOR HIM.
I DON'T WANT TO BREAK UP YOUR SETTLEMENT OR RUN YOU OUT OF HERE-- I JUST WANT TO FIND THE MAN I'M LOOKING FOR AND LEAVE.
I DON'T LIKE THIS. I DON'T LIKE THIS. I DON'T LIKE THIS.
DON'T LET HIM, ROCK.
WE CAN'T LET THE COPS BARGE IN HERE AND SEARCH THROUGH OUR STUFF.
WE'VE GOT RIGHTS, YOU KNOW.
THAT'S ENOUGH, RADICAL.
WE ARE TECHNICALLY TRESPASSING.
ALTHOUGH WE CALL THE UNDERGROUND OUR HOME-- WE DON'T OWN IT.
DRAGON-- DO AS YOU WILL.

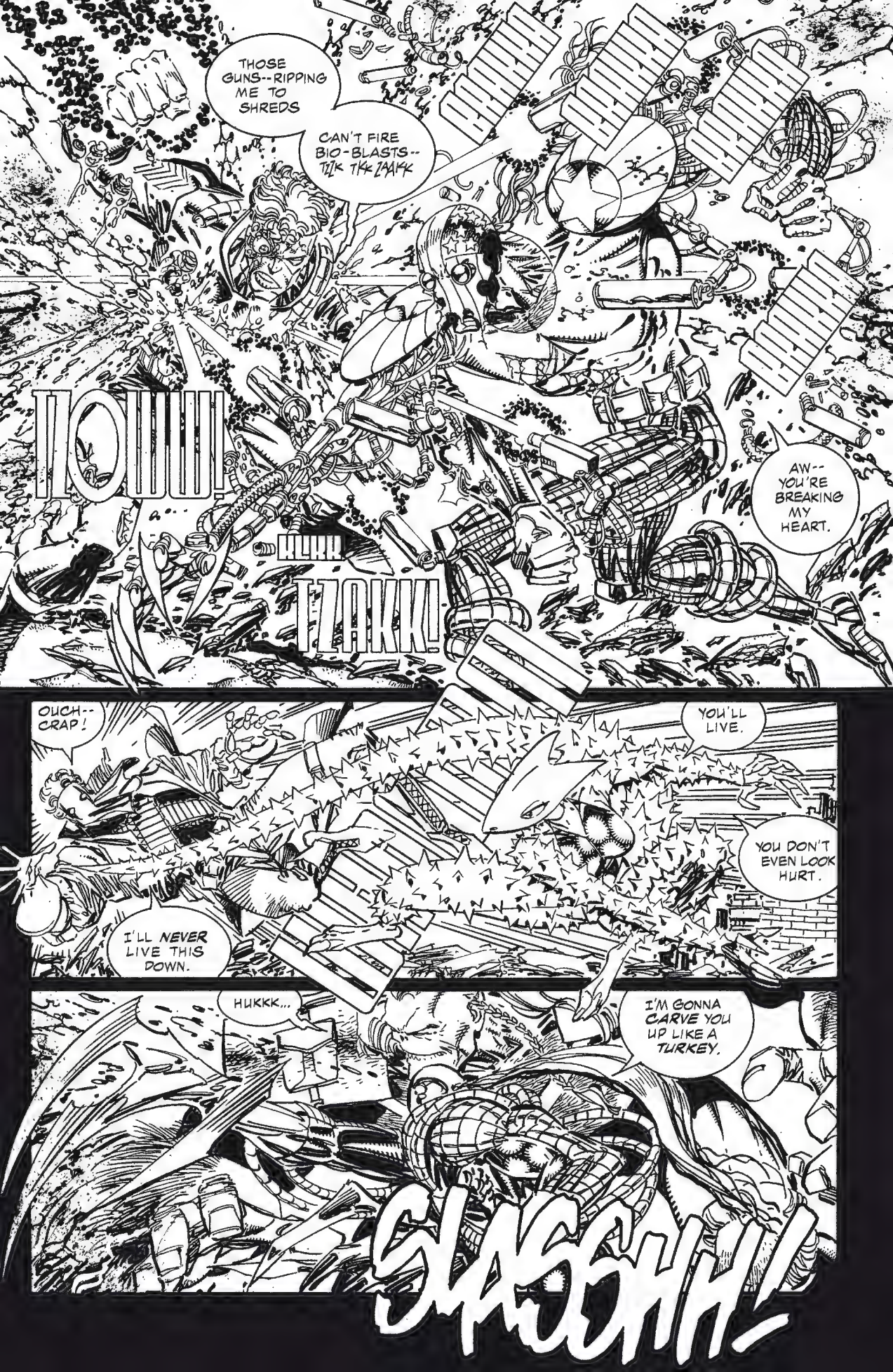
I'D SAY THE PARTY'S JUST BEGUN!
GOSH!
NICE TRACKIN', VOID, YOU FOUND THE BIG GUY!
NOW WHAT DO YOU SAY WE KICK SOME CANS?
LET'S GET WILD, C.A.T.S!
DO IT, WARBLADE!

LET'S GO.
HUH?
LOOK, I'VE BEEN ALL OVER THE PLACE, TALKED TO EVERYBODY AND THEIR BROTHER-- I DON'T THINK THAT THE OCTOPUS GUY I'M LOOKING FOR IS HERE.
BUT, BUT--
I MEAN, WE DIDN'T GET INTO A BIG FIGHT OR ANYTHING!
WHERE'S ALL THE ACTION, ADVENTURE AND EXCITEMENT A GUY LIKE ME CRAVES?
I DIDN'T GET TO SAVE A SINGLE LIFE OR KICK A SINGLE ASS!
IT HAPPENS.
THIS IS HOW IT'S SUPPOSED TO WORK.
THIS SUCKS!
I'M WILLING TO KICK THE CRAP OUT OF YOU IF IT WILL MAKE YOU HAPPY.
C'MON, CYBERFACE-- YOU'VE GOT TO EAT SOMETHING...!

WHAT HAPPENED?
NOTHING.
YOU GOT A LOUSY TIP.
THERE'S A BUNCH OF HOMELESS FREAKS HOLED UP THERE AND MY LITTLE FRIEND HERE TRIED TO PICK A FIGHT BUT...
DEPT
WHAT FRIEND?
GONE.
WHY AM I NOT SURPRISED?
MAYBE YOUR FRIEND--
MIGHTY MAN AND AN UNIDENTIFIED BIG PURPLE GUY ARE TEARING UP SOME ABANDONED BUILDINGS NEAR HILLMAN HOSPITAL.
SOUNDS LIKE FUN.
LET'S ROLL.
ROARRRRR

FOOLISH WOMAN, YOU HAVEN'T THE VAGUEST NOTION OF WHAT YOU'RE UP AGAINST. YOU FACE A CODA WARRIOR NO
OWW!
BUTTON IT, SISTER.
I'VE HAD MY SHARE OF TRAINING TOO.
WHERE I COME FROM, ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS.
NICE EFFORT, T2--IT'S NOT ENOUGH.
THAT DOES IT-- I HATE WHEN PEOPLE CALL ME THAT!
WHOOKK!
MY BIO-BLASTS WILL MAKE SHORT WORK OF YOU, CREATURE--
PLUG YOUR DRAIN, BUTT-WIPE.
THESE AREN'T DAEMONITES.
WHO ARE THEY, AND WHY ARE THEY--?
WE'RE FREAK FORCE, LADY.
AND YOUR PAL, GRAPE APE, PICKED A FIGHT WITH US!

YOUR MIGHT IS BUT A FRACTION OF MY OWN, VILLAIN. YOUR PATHETIC LIGHTNING BOLTS ARE A FAR CRY FROM MY POWER COSMIC.
SURRENDER OR FACE MY WRATH!
MAUL SMASH!
KRAKKA-KA-KAKAZZAKK!
EE-YOW!!
YOU AIN'T GETTIN' AWAY THAT EASILY, HON'.
THOK!
UHNNGH!
MAUL, YOU'RE GETTING TOO BIG.
AND TOO DUMB.



THOSE GUNS--RIPPING ME TO SHREDS

CAN'T FIRE BIO-BLASTS-- TZZK TKK ZAAKK

NOWW!

KLIK!

TZAKK!

AW-- YOU'RE BREAKING MY HEART.

OUCH-- CRAP!

YOU'LL LIVE.

YOU DON'T EVEN LOOK HURT.

I'LL *NEVER* LIVE THIS DOWN.

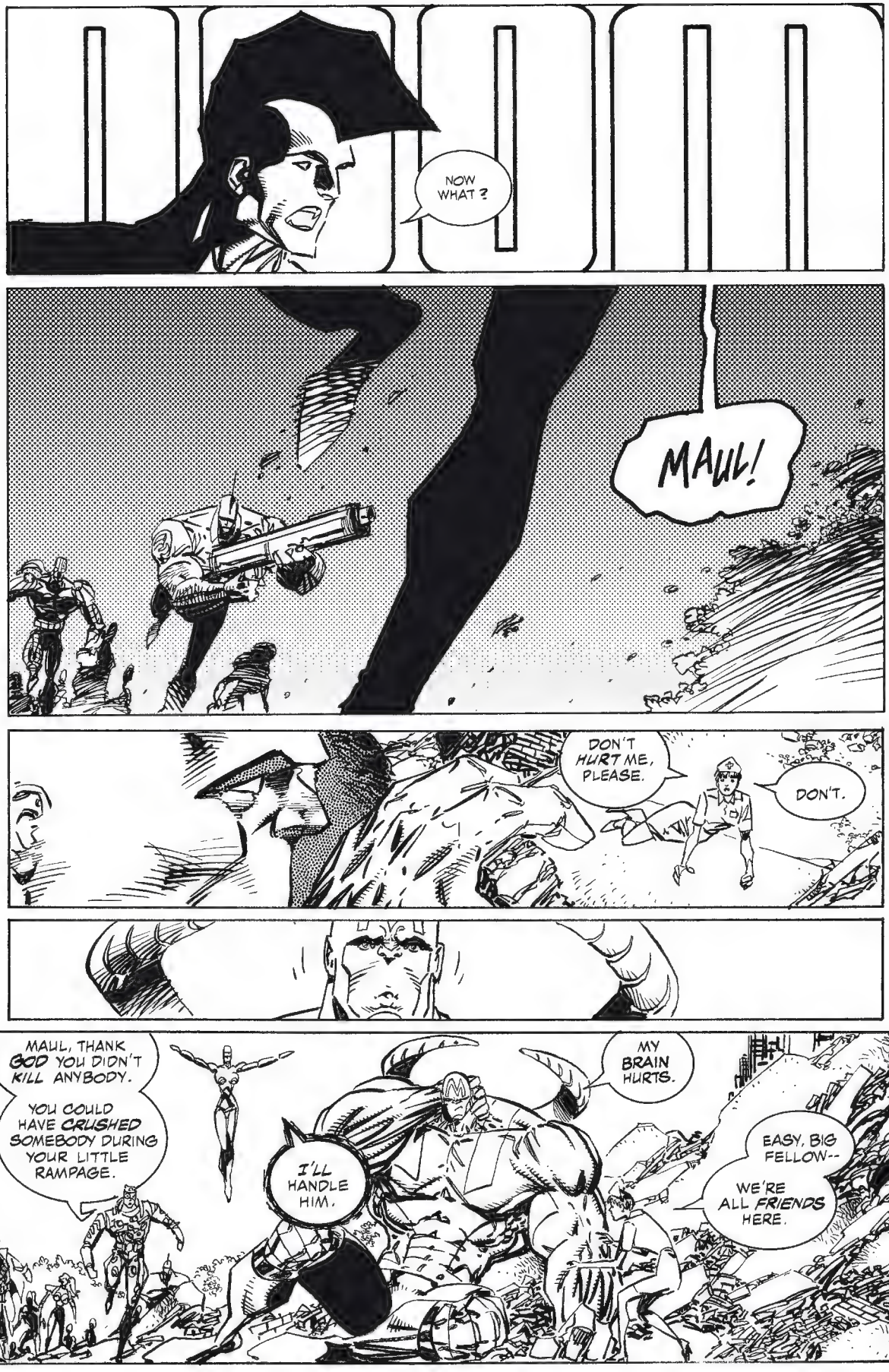
HUKKK...

I'M GONNA *CARVE* YOU UP LIKE A *TURKEY*.

SLASSHH!

AW, CHRIST!
WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT.
I'LL GET YOUR GUN FOR YOU.
LORD HELP ME-- I RECOGNIZE SOME OF THOSE IDIOTS.
HAND ME THE BIGGEST THING YOU'VE GOT.
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...
I'VE GOT A NOISE ORDINANCE TO ENFORCE.

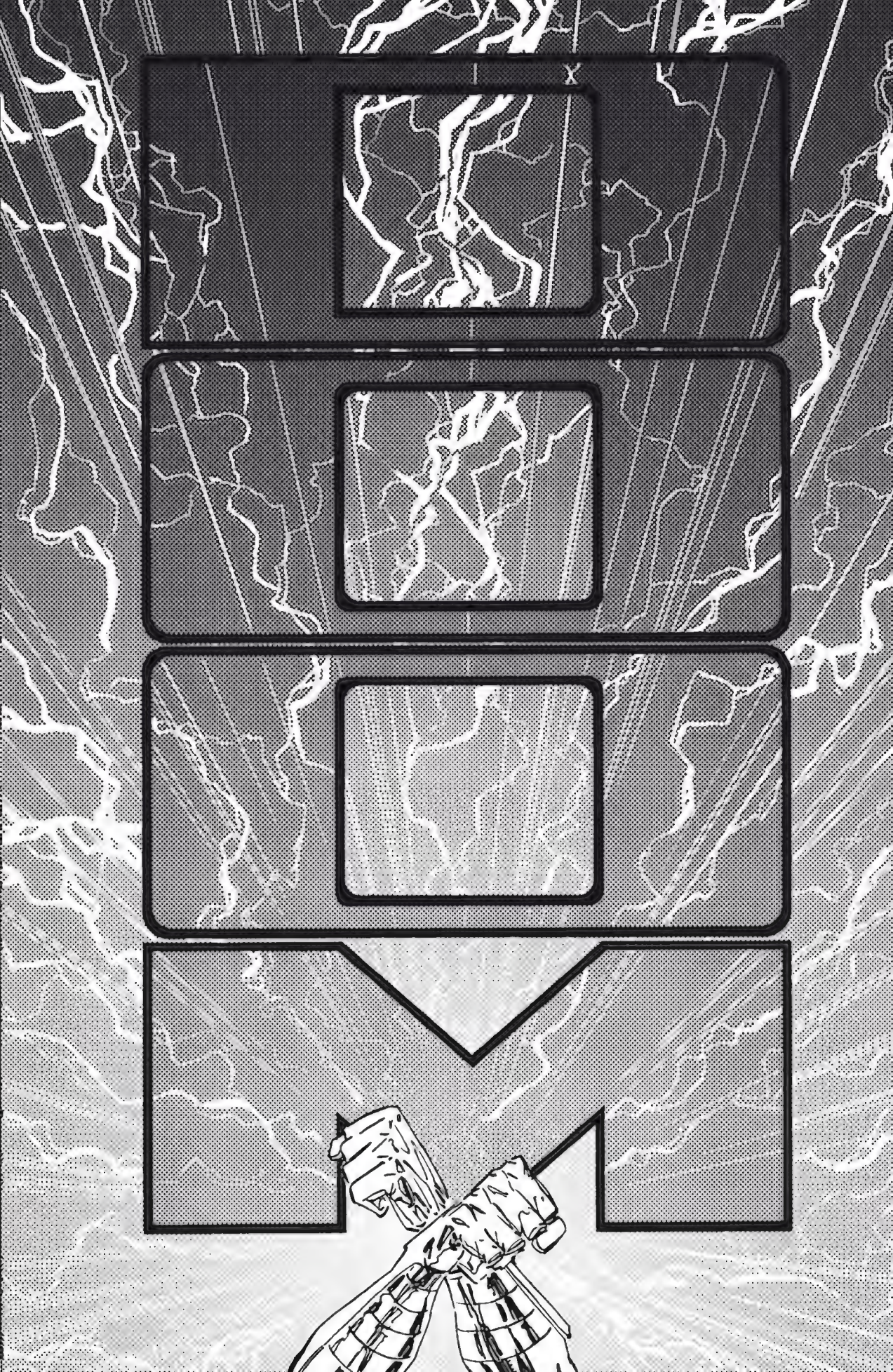
TABLES TURNED, GIRL.
YOU COULDN'T KEEP THAT TAIL MOVING FOREVER.
TIME CAME AND OL' GRIFTER MADE HIS MOVE.
WHA--?
GRIFTER-- WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?
THESE ARE THE GOOD GUYS YOU'RE POUNDING ON.
CALL OFF YOUR DOGS--OR, UH--CATS. THERE'S BEEN A MISTAKE.
DAMN.
HEY, C.A.T.S!!
STOP!!
WE SCREWED UP!


NOW WHAT ?
MAUL!
DON'T HURT ME, PLEASE.
DON'T.
MAUL, THANK GOD YOU DIDN'T KILL ANYBODY.
YOU COULD HAVE CRUSHED SOMEBODY DURING YOUR LITTLE RAMPAGE.
I'LL HANDLE HIM.
MY BRAIN HURTS.
EASY, BIG FELLOW--
WE'RE ALL FRIENDS HERE.

THE HELL...?
DRAGON!
OH, BABY!
HUH?
OH--HI, RAPTURE.
THIS ISN'T LIKE MAUL, REALLY.
USUALLY, HE'S MORE MELLOW.
SORRY ABOUT ALL THIS, DART.
YOU GUYS ARE PRETTY TOUGH.
SO ARE YOU.
MAUL...?

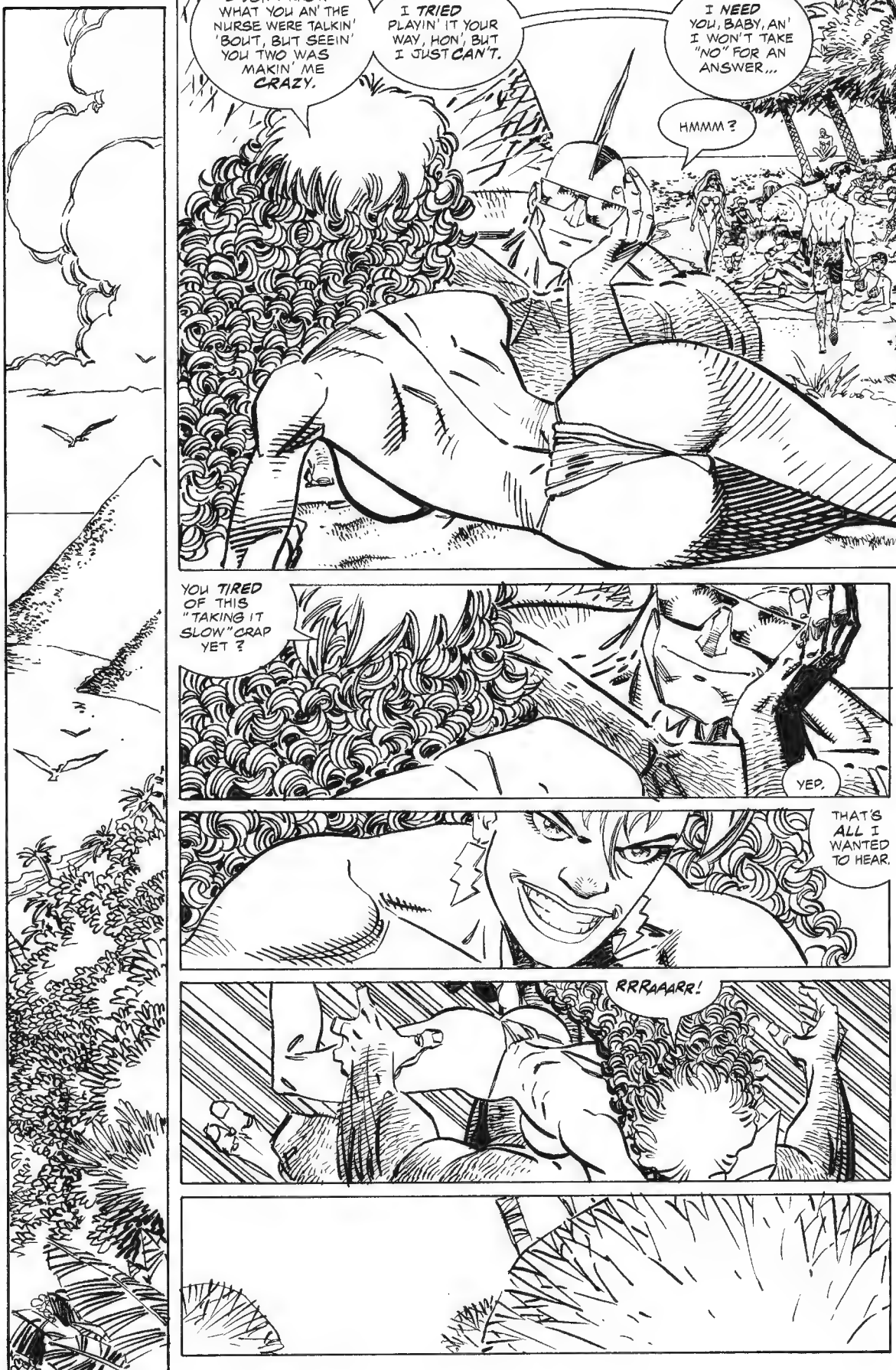
HI, CAPTAIN STEWART -- YOU'RE LOOKING GOOD.
SIR. IT SEEMS THERE WAS A BIT OF A MIX UP.
THE BIG PURPLE GUY'S EX-GIRLFRIEND ACCIDENTLY GOT HURT DURING ONE OF MIGHTY MAN'S BATTLES AND SO HE ATTACKED MIGHTY MAN. AS USUAL, IT WAS ALL A BIG MISUNDERSTANDING.
I'M TOLD THAT THE RUNT IS SOME RICH GUY, AND IS WILLING TO PAY FOR ALL DAMAGES.
SEEING AS NOBODY WAS REALLY HURT AND MOST OF THE DAMAGE WAS TO STRUCTURES SCHEDULED FOR DEMOLITION...
I... ER...
I THINK WE COULD BE...UH...
... PERSUADED NOT TO PRESS CHARGES.
MISTER DRAGON...
WE NEED TO TALK.
AW, C'MON, MIGHTY MAN.
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM FOR A FEW DAYS--
CAN'TCHA FIND YER OWN GUY?
OKAY, OKAY.
JUST TRY AN' KEEP YOUR HANDS TO YOURSELF.

THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TELL YOU BUT IT NEVER SEEMED TO BE THE RIGHT TIME.
OH, YEAH?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT COULD BE-- WE'VE BARELY MET.
I KNOW YOU, MISTER DRAGON, BETTER THAN YOU THINK.
OH, GEEZ...
YOU'RE NOT COMING ON TO ME, ARE YOU?
MISTER DRAGON...
THIS ISN'T SOME BIZARRE FATAL ATTRACTION THING--
OKAY, OKAY,
WHAT IS IT?
THIS...



I'M ANN STEVENS.
WHEN MISTER BERMAN DIED, HE PASSED HIS POWERS ON TO ME.
JESUS.
I BECAME MIGHTY MAN.
MAUL'S OLD GIRLFRIEND WAS HURT WHEN OVERPOWER KNOCKED ME-- THAT IS, MIGHTY MAN THROUGH A WALL.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT HER. I JUST--
THIS IS GOING TO TAKE SOME GETTING USED TO.
BELIEVE ME-- I KNOW THE FEELING.

WAIT A MINUTE--YOU MEAN WHEN SUPERPATRIOT WENT NUTS AND I PROTECTED YOU--YOU COULD HAVE CHANGED INTO MIGHTY MAN?
YEAH, BUT I...
I KNEW YOU'D PROTECT ME--I HAD FAITH IN YOU AND I... DIDN'T WANT TO GIVE AWAY MY SECRET.
NOBODY KNEW YET.
YOU'RE SOMETHING, YOU KNOW THAT?
THAT TOOK A LOT OF FAITH AND... AND BALLS NOT TO CRACK.
YOU'RE QUITE A WOMAN, ANN.
MISTER DRAGON, I...
BREAK IT UP, YOU TWO.
WILDC.A.T.S' LEADER WANTS TO TAKE FREAK FORCE ON A TROPICAL VACATION TO MAKE UP FOR ATTACKIN' US.
THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY FOR A FEW DAYS.
THINGS HAVE BEEN A LITTLE SLOW...
I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.


I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU AN' THE NURSE WERE TALKIN' 'BOUT, BUT SEEIN' YOU TWO WAS MAKIN' ME CRAZY.
I TRIED PLAYIN' IT YOUR WAY, HON', BUT I JUST CAN'T.
I NEED YOU, BABY, AN' I WON'T TAKE "NO" FOR AN ANSWER...
HMMM?
YOU TIRED OF THIS "TAKING IT SLOW" CRAP YET?
YEP.
THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO HEAR.
RRRAAARR!

THINGS HAVE GOTTEN COMPLICATED.

IN THE BEGINNING, LT. FRANK DARLING GOT THE DRAGON A JOB WORKING FOR HIS COUSIN FRED, TO KEEP HIM OUT OF TROUBLE.

THINGS WENT FROM BAD TO WORSE IN CHICAGO AND FRANK TRIED TO GET THE DRAGON TO JOIN THE POLICE FORCE.

HE WOULDN'T.

FRANK THOUGHT IF HE SAW WHAT THEY WERE UP AGAINST, FIRST HAND, THAT HE'D RECONSIDER, SO FRANK ARRANGED FOR THE BAD GUYS TO SHAKE UP FRED.

THE DRAGON STOPPED THEM. THEY BLEW UP FRED'S WAREHOUSE.

FRED DIED. DRAGON JOINED.

FRANK'S SCHEME WAS DISCOVERED BY CHICAGO'S MOST POWERFUL CRIMINAL ORGINIZATION, THE VICIOUS CIRCLE.

THEIR LEADER OVERLORD FORCED FRANK TO MISDIRECT DRAGON -- TO KEEP HIM OUT OF THEIR HAIR.

THEIR THREATS ESCALATED. THEY BROKE HIS WIFE'S LEG.

SHE LEFT.

FRANK CAME CLEAN WITH THE DRAGON -- SPILLED HIS GUTS.

DRAGON DIDN'T KILL HIM.

DRAGON TOLD FRANK THAT THE BAD GUYS HAD TOO MUCH ON HIM. IF THEY TALKED FRANK'S CAREER WOULD BE OVER.

IF FRANK TALKED, HE'D BE DEAD.

IN A BATTLE WITH A RIVAL GANG, CYBERFACE, AN OLD PARTNER OF OVERLORD'S WAS CAPTURED. THEY CUT A DEAL. SOON AFTER, A WARRANT FOR OVERLORD'S ARREST WAS ISSUED.

FRANK WANTED TO BE THERE. HE WANTED TO COME ALONG. HIS CAREER WAS AS GOOD AS OVER AND HE WANTED TO GO OUT WITH A BANG. MOSTLY, HE WANTED TO SEE THE DRAGON KICK OVERLORD'S BUTT.

DRAGON THOUGHT IT WAS A REALLY BAD IDEA.

SO HE DIDN'T GO.

ONE OF THE ALIEN VANGUARD'S MORPHING ROBOTS WAS LEFT IN POLICE CUSTODY AND THEY HAD HIM COME ALONG DISGUISED AS FRANK.

OVERLORD BLEW HIM TO BITS.

WITH OVERLORD THINKING FRANK WAS DEAD, FRANK LEFT TOWN AND WAS REUNITED WITH HIS WIFE. SHE GAVE BIRTH TO A BABY BOY. AND FRANK WAS HAPPY.

BUT THE MORPHLING DIDN'T DIE -- HE WAS ABLE TO REFORM.

HE WAS LAST PROGRAMMED TO ARREST OVERLORD.

HE'S COME BACK TO FINISH THE JOB.

AGAIN.

WHAT?!
IT'S FRANK DARLING AGAIN.
DIDN'T YOU ALREADY KILL HIM?
TWICE?
SPOOKY.

I... HAVE... HAD... ENOUGH!
DIE, DAMN YOU!
SKRAK!
DIE!!

HE'S STILL MOVING, BOSS.
LET *ME* TRY...
I'LL SCRAMBLE HIS BRAIN.
TAKE *THAT*, FREAK.
YOU'RE GOING ON A TRIP YOU WON'T *EVER* COME BACK FROM.
LORDY, HE'S NOT--
UNNNGH!

FOOL--HE'S ESCAPING!
SKKD
YOUR SCIENTIST MUST HAVE DONE SOMETHING TO HIM.
MY TAMPERING SEEMED TO DRIVE HIM WILD.
I'M SORRY THIS HAPPENED.
YES, UNDERMIND... YOU ARE.
OR RATHER--YOU WILL BE...
OVERLORD, PLEASE, I COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN THAT...
OH... NEVER MIND.
GET OUT OF MY SIGHT, YOU COWERING WRETCH.
SCRAM.
SKULLFACE.
SIR?
GONE.
I HAVE A MISSION FOR YOU.

OKAY, OKAY.
NO NEED TO SHOW OFF.
MMMM?

OH, YOU LOVE IT AND YOU KNOW IT.
LIKE I'M GOING TO ARGUE WITH YOU ABOUT THAT.
SO THAT WAS OKAY THEN?
ANY REGRETS ABOUT PUTTIN' A GAL OFF FOR SO LONG?
SOME GUYS LIKE TO KNOW A WOMAN A LITTLE BIT BEFORE THEY JUMP IN THE SACK.
I AIN'T EVER MET ONE OF THEM GUYS BEFORE...
YOU UP FOR SECONDS?
ENOUGH ALREADY.
HEY!
HA, HA.
WHOOPS!
CRASH!
DON'T KNOW MY OWN STRENGTH.
SORRY.

NO, REALLY.
I DIDN'T MEAN IT.
WHAT ARE YOU--
DOING?!
WUMP
BEEP BEEP
MMMM?
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
CRAP.
THAT BEEPER'S A REAL PAIN.
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
CAREFUL WITH THAT FIN, DRAGON-- YOU'RE LIABLE TO PUT SOMEONE'S EYE OUT.
BEEP BEEP

MMMMM
I LOVE A MAN IN UNIFORM.
BUT MOSTLY, I LOVE 'EM OUT OF UNIFORM.
RAPTURE, YOU'RE RELENTLESS.
IT'S A WONDER YOU EVER GAVE UP YOUR NIGHT JOB.
AND SPEAKING OF WONDERS, THERE'S THAT COSTUME OF YOURS--
HOW DO YOU KEEP FROM LOSING ONE OF THOSE BABIES?
STATIC ELECTRICITY.
IT CLINGS!
COULDN'T LIVE WITHOUT IT--OR AT LEAST, I COULDN'T STILL DRESS LIKE THIS--
AND FIGHT CRIME--
WITHOUT IT.
GOT TO FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, BABE.
YOU COMING?
NO, BUT THE THOUGHT OF SEEING YOU IN ACTION AGAIN IS GETTING ME PRETTY WORKED UP.
RELENTLESS.

OKAY, OKAY. SO, POLITICS ARE A SORE SUBJECT, TOO.
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT? ANYTHING AT ALL?
LOOK, I'M REALLY TRYING TO MAKE THIS FIRST DATE A SUCCESS-- A LITTLE EFFORT ON YOUR PART WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.
I'M DYING HERE!
WHAT THE HELL?
SPECTRE

IT'S THAT VANGUARD CLOWN AGAIN.
IF I DIDN'T KNOW ANY BETTER I'D SWEAR HE WAS FOLLOWIN' ME AROUND.
TOUCHY!
GOTCHA.
NOW, SETTLE DOWN. I'M SURE THIS IS JUST SOME KIND OF MISUNDERSTANDING.
STAR CAN BE A LITTLE IMPETUOUS...!
JESUS!

AW, C'MON.
YOU'RE NOT MAKING THIS ANY EASIER.
AH WELL.
I'LL JUST HAVE TO GUESS!
YOW!
RAPTURE, IT'S ME!!
YOU GUESSED WRONG!

HEY, DON'T LET IT BE SAID I'M UNWILLING TO HELP OUT!
JUST FRY THE ONE THAT'S CHOCK FULL OF MY GENUINE, PATENTED THROWING STARS!
WROOP!
THOK THOK THOK THOK

THANKS, HON!
SKRAKA-ZAKK!
YEAH, BABY!

UNNGH!
HRAKK
HE DON'T LIKE THAT VERY MUCH, DOES HE?
HRAKK
HRAKK
HRAKK
EEAAUGH!

OKAY-- THAT DOES IT!
RUDD
... AND FOR HIS SAKE, IT BETTER HAVE.
GIVE HIM ONE FOR ME, DARLING.

GREETINGS, EARTHLING, WE COME IN PEACE.
THERE YOU ARE...!
WHAT THE...?
VANGUARD!
HI, HANDSOME.
THIS IS TOO WEIRD.
THAT WAS ONE OF YOUR DAMN MORPHING ROBOTS AGAIN, WASN'T IT?
YOU'VE GOTTA CONTROL THOSE THINGS.
THIS ONE DESTROYED ALL SORTS OF STUFF.
THAT WASN'T JUST ANY MORPHLING --
THAT'S THE ONE YOU THOUGHT WAS DESTROYED.
IT'S LURCH.
JESUS.

COOL.
THEN... THE MORPHLING THAT WENT WITH ME... THAT OVERLORD KILLED... IS ALIVE?
YEP.
THEY TAKE A LICKIN' AND KEEP ON TICKIN'.
WE'LL TAKE HIM BACK UP TO THE SHIP. I DON'T WANT HIM TO GET INTO ANY MORE TROUBLE.
OH, CHRIST.
YEAH, FINE-- TAKE HIM.
BUT THEN OVERLORD MIGHT KNOW HE WASN'T THE REAL...
WHAT?
CRAP.
CIAO!
LATER, DUDE.
DID I MISS SOMETHING?
HELLO?
ANYBODY?
WHAT'S WRONG, SWEETIE?
I THINK I'LL BE GOING NOW.
IF THAT'S OKAY WITH YOU.
EVERYTHING.

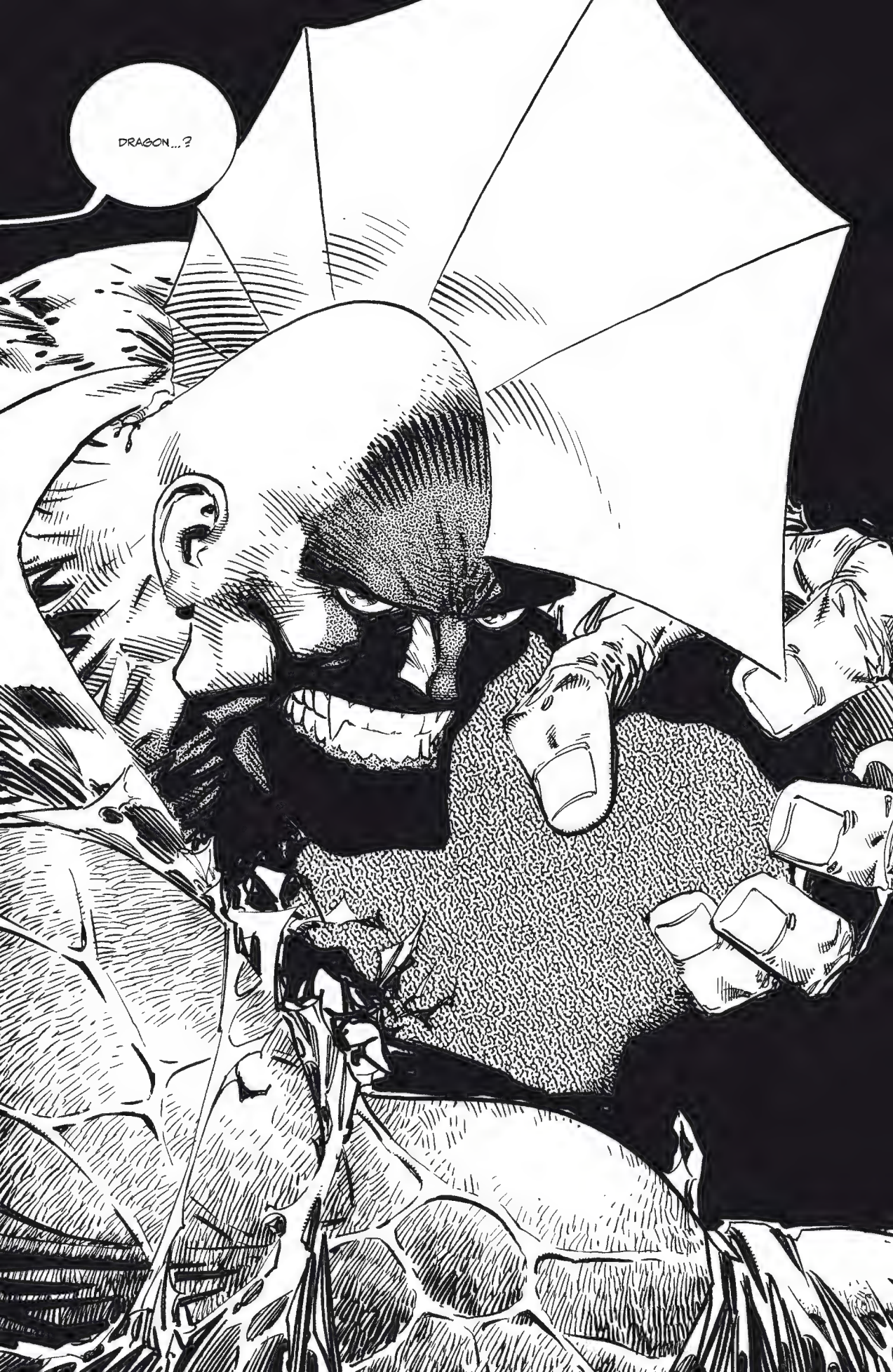
RUSH
HELP ME--
HE'S NOT BREATHING.
OH GOD!
WE'VE GOT TO TRY C.P.R.-- NOW.
LIVE, DAMN IT.
LIVE!
THAT DID IT--
BEAUTIFUL.
COUGH COUGH
=WHEW=
THANK YOU, OFFICER.
THANK YOU.
ALEX.
MY NAME IS ALEX.
DALE FISHER.
DO YOU WANT TO GET SOME COFFEE OR SOMETHING?

YEAH, BUT I CAN'T TELL YA'.
IT'S SOME SECRET GOVERNMENT THING -- THE WHOLE TEAM'S GOTTA GO.
DUNNO WHEN WE'LL BE BACK.
YEAH, I'M SORRY TOO.
THAT'S WHATCHA GET FOR GOIN' OUT WITH A WORKIN' GIRL -- THAT IS, A GIRL THAT WORKS.
YOU BE CAREFUL, OKAY?
UH HUH.
LOVE YOU TOO.
BYE.
YO, DRAGON!
YOUR "MOM" IS ON TV.
SHE'S STILL CONVINCED THAT YOU'RE HER SON.
SHE'S BEEN HITTING THE TALK SHOW CIRCUIT PRETTY HARD.
OH, CHRIST -- NOT AGAIN!
REALLY GETS 'EM WORKED UP INTO A LATHER, DOESN'T SHE?
MY BABY RODNEY =SOB=
HOW COULD HE FORSAKE ME?
NOT A BAD LIKENESS.
GIVE ME STRENGTH.
HEY, RODNEY...

MY LITTLE BOY =SOB=
A BIG SUPER HERO--TOO BUSY TO SEE HIS OWN MOTHER.
ISN'T THAT YOUR MOM?
OH YEAH.
I GUESS I HAVEN'T TALKED TO HER IN A WHILE.
MAN, I GOTTA GIVE HER A CALL...
GO ON.
THEY KNOW YOU'RE ALIVE, FRANK. YOUR LIFE IS IN DANGER. IT'S TIME WE CONFRONTED THEM--THERE'S NO OTHER WAY.
HELLO?
PETER KLAPTIN MYSTERIOUSLY VANISHED AGAIN TODAY AS HE WAS PREPARING TO TAPE...

HI, FRANKIE.
YOU'RE LOOKING WELL.
THIS IS THE PLACE.
A LOT OF LOW LIFE FREAKS HAVE BEEN CRASHING HERE.
WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE YOUR FUGITIVE OCTOPUS MAN IS...
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
SORRY.
I JUST HAD THE STRANGEST FEELING.

PUNK
GKK..
DRAGON, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
OH MY GOD.
EEAAAAAAGH!
DRAGON?


DRAGON...?

Rapture's gone. The rest of Freak Force too. They're off on some secret mission that she wouldn't tell me about. Off saving the world again, no doubt.
I've got my own problems.
Overlord may know that Lt. Frank Darling is alive. The morphling that Overlord destroyed when it was disguised as Frank, reanimated itself and ran amuck in downtown Chicago.
I talked to Frank, told him he was in danger--the phone went dead.
If Skullface or any of the rest of Overlord's Vicious Circle cronies have tracked him down, he won't last thirty seconds.
Then there's this Octopus guy who raided Donner Electronics along with Openface. He's alleged to be holed up in this abandoned warehouse.
DRAGON?
Sergeant Julian Graham and myself have gone to check it out.
I expect another dead end.

There are these damned *leeches*. We keep finding the suckers on the base of peoples' necks. They *take over* the person that they're attached to -- force them to do things that they wouldn't ordinarily do.
Once a leech is *removed*, the person returns to *normal*. But removing them from a *super freak* is no easy task. I went a few rounds with *SuperPatriot* a while back and before that a man called *the Shrew*.
Lord help us, if one of these suckers get attached to anybody with any *real* power.
Like *me*.
SKRRRATHOOM

SPASSH
Lord help us all.

...I'M SURE YOU CAN SEE WHAT A VALUABLE ADDITION I'D BE TO THE FORCE, CAPTAIN STEWART.
WE TRIED OTHER SUPER POWERED COPS, MISS BELCHER.
IT DIDN'T WORK OUT.
IT WOULD THIS TIME.
AND YOU CAN CALL ME SHE-DRAGON.
Captain Stewart is Frank's superior. An indecisive leader who always looks for other people's opinions so he doesn't have to have one of his own.
He tries to lead by following which doesn't always work. He's awful in a crunch or when forced to think for himself.
ARE YOU... RELATED TO OFFICER DRAGON?
OFFICER DRAGON HAS GONE CRAZY!
HE'S TEARING UP THE CITY!
NO.
I'M FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA-- A REGULAR MIDDLE CLASS FAMILY.
MY ORIGIN IS NO BIG SECRET.
SOMETHING MY DAD WAS HIT WITH IN VIETNAM WAS PASSED ON TO ME AND MADE ME SICK.
A GUY CALLED JOHNNY REDBEARD CURED ME AND GAVE ME SUPER POWERS.
YOU KNOW THE REST.
RECENTLY, I HELPED DRAGON CATCH OPENFACE IN...
CAPTAIN STEWART...!
Ray Wong is on top of things. He usually gives me the lowdown on any situation with a quick analysis and summation of events. He's bright and curious... sometimes to a fault. He's likeable but nosey.

Lt. Frank Darling is my best friend. He's a good cop. He's willing to bend the rules to show compassion. I've learned a lot from the man.
Frank got himself into a bit of trouble with the Vicious Circle. We thought we dodged that bullet by faking his death.
With overlord thinking Frank was dead, Frank left Chicago to be with his wife. She gave birth to a baby boy and Frank was happy.
BRAKKA-KK!
When I told him the bad guys may know he was still alive-- he didn't sound so happy.
SKULLFACE!!

NICE TOY, FRANKIE.
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
TZING
TZOW
TZING
RUNCH
IT'S NOT ENOUGH.
YOU CAN'T STOP ME, FRANKIE!
YOU'LL NEVER STOP ME!

R. Richard Richards, publisher of the Chicago Voice loves nothing better than to fan the flames of controversy.
His latest tirade is on what a lousy role model I am--and how much better the city was without me. It's a line of pull designed to get people all worked up and sell newspapers.
It's not working. Without any evidence to support the theory, that I'm a menace, he's losing his credibility and his readership.
I WANT PICTURES, DAMN IT!
OFFICER DRAGON HAS GONE ON A RAMPAGE AND I WANT THE WHOLE WORLD TO KNOW THAT R. RICHARD RICHARDS WAS RIGHT!
I'LL SEE THAT SONUVABITCH FRY IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO! THEY'LL NEVER LAUGH AT ME AGAIN!
NOW, MOVE, DAMN IT!
THANKS AGAIN FOR MAKING THE TRIP DOWN HERE.
NO PROBLEM.
WHAT'S GOING ON...?
YOU HAVEN'T HEARD? THE DRAGON'S TRASHING CHICAGO! HE'S GONE BANANAS--
MR. KLAPTIN?
PETER...?

FRANKIE...?
KLATTER
YOU'RE KIDDING ME, FRANKIE--
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!
THIS IS SUPPOSED TO STOP ME?
THIS?
I'M LAUGHING, FRANKIE-- I'M BUSTING A GODDAM GUT!

STOP

OH, LORDY.
NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE THE DAY WE'D HAVE TO FACE HIM.
Phil Dirt is perky, clean and punctual. He's a good cop, efficient and polite. He's a homosexual, but keeps his personal life to himself. The only time he acts up is around Howard because it makes him squirm.
I HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING.
ME, TOO.
WISH ME LUCK.
Amy Belcher is this ditsy, valley girl that used to run around beating up homeless people with her deadbeat friends. She had bouts with mental illness. She used to talk to her imaginary friends.
These days she's calling herself the She-Dragon and wonders why I don't want to have anything to do with her.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, DRAGON, BUT ONE THING'S FOR SURE--
I'M GOING TO KICK THE CRAP OUT OF YOU.

CHOOM.
KRA-
KA-
BA-
DOOM!

VERY GOOD, FRANKIE.
VERY GOOD.
MANAGED TO GIVE ME THE SLIP.
NOW I SEE HOW YOU'VE LASTED ALL THESE...
YEARS.

NOW WHAT?
AW GEEZ, CAN'T I JUST SIT THIS ONE OUT?
Sgt. Bruce Robinson is fat and lazy. He hopes to coast along and get his pension. His only real skill is the ability to get other people to do his work for him.
He frequently uses a bad back or other imagined ailment to excuse himself from any difficult situations.
WHAT ARE YOU PANSIES WAITING FOR?
WE CAN'T JUST SHOOT HIM -- HE'S SAVED ALL OUR BUTTS AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER.
LET'S NOT BE HASTY.
SOMEONE'S HYPNOTIZED HIM -- HE WOULDN'T DO THIS -- HE JUST COULDN'T.
KILL THE SON OF A BITCH!
FIRE, DAMMIT!
Lt. Darren "Bull" McCarthy heads up the S.W.A.T. team and firmly believes that they were doing fine before I came along -- even though it's far from the truth. Super freaks had almost taken over the city.
His importance diminished once I arrived on the scene. He's one of the few cops who has the stones to pitch me crap. A real hard-nosed s.o.b.
He'd love nothing better than to have me vanish. He thinks he's man enough to take on all the super-powered freaks that threaten the city.
He's an idiot and I don't have any patience for idiots.

KRAK
FLING
THUNK
WHOOP
RUDD
Howard Niseman stands 6'8". This guy is a monster of a man. About as big and mean as a normal human gets.
He's a bigot and makes no apologies for it. He nearly got kicked off the force for beating the crap out of an innocent black man.
He was the toughest cop in Chicago until I came along. He doesn't like that, or me, very much. He doesn't like the idea of working with freaks--although he's mellowed out a little since we first met.
KILL HIM! KILL HIM!
KILL THE BASTARD!

=HUNNGH=
JESUS.
OH, GOD.
KLAK
THAT DOES IT--

HRAWK!
OH, GOD.
OH, GOD.
OH, GOD.
RITA, SHOOT HIM!
OH, GOD.
OH, GOD.
OH, GOD.
I CAN'T.
I JUST CAN'T-- DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
I CAN'T SHOOT HIM!
LOOK OUT!!
Rita Medermade is a brawny redhead. She's 6'4" and built like a tank. She seems pretty shy around me--stares at me a lot. Blushes when I look up. She's a good officer but a bit too hesitant at times.
William Jonson is feisty and wiry, a man of action. Damn good in a brawl. He's an undercover cop and he seems to be everywhere. He covers a lot of ground, knows more than you'd think.

The Shrew is Chris Vantage, a homeless man who looks, literally, like a shrew. He has the potential to be quite formidable but he spends most of his time holed up in a basement or sewer.
When I first met him, he'd been driven crazy by one of those leeches. He'd slaughtered a mess of people under its influence. Bringing him in was a bitch. His case was dismissed, after it was determined the leech was responsible.
Upon his release, a vigilante named Mace sent him to the hospital. A few months later he was back on the street. He's one of those freaks that just gets by. He's not a hero or villain--he's just a survivor.
There are a lot like him.
THERE HE IS.
JESUS, WHAT A MESS.
SHREW FIGURES HE'S GOT ONE OF THOSE THINGEES ON HIM.
YOU THINK WE STAND A CHANCE, ROCK?
WE DO, BEAST BOY, IF WE CAN ACT AS A TEAM.
YEAH, MAYBE.
LET'S GIVE IT OUR BEST SHOT, KIDS.
WIDOW TRY AND SNARE HIM IN YOUR WEB...
SHREW, TRY AND GET IN CLOSE AND SLASH THAT BUGGER ON HIS NECK...
BEAST BOY...
UH...
DO WHAT YOU CAN.

CRASH
OUCH.
OW.
IN CASE OF FIRE BREAK GLASS
CRASH!
CRASH!!

KAKK
UUUNNGHH

KLIK KLAK
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, DRAGON.
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO DO THIS!
Alex Wilde is my closest friend left on the force. There's an attraction we have to each other but we're just friends--neither of us wants to destroy our relationship. I like her a lot.
Her father was a policeman. He died in the line of duty while she was still in the academy. She thought that following in his footsteps they would become closer--that never happened. She's one tough cookie.
DAMN IT!
BRAKKA
BRAKKA
BRAKK
THUD
CRAP.
THOOM
DRAGON--NO!
AAAA!!!!

Star is this vigilante I met early in my career. I was sent in to rescue this hostage, Amanda Mills, and he came in and fired some of his shiruken at the bad guys. He helped save her life.
I'm not too keen on vigilantes but star's an okay guy. He doesn't seem to be doing this for a sadistic kick like Mace or that Shadowhawk clown. He seems genuinely altruistic.
BOOM!
HEADS UP, TRUE BELIEVERS-- STAR IS COMING AT YA!
THK THK THK THK THK THK THK THK THK THK THK THK THK THK THK THK
UH OH.
SUDDENLY, I DON'T THINK THIS WAS SUCH A BRIGHT IDEA.

SPLABOOSH!!!
SUCK ON THIS, SKULLFACE!
I TIRE OF THIS CAT AND MOUSE GAME, FRANKIE.
YOU PUT UP A GOOD FIGHT, I'LL ADMIT--
BUT WHEN IT COMES RIGHT DOWN TO IT-- I'VE GOT SUPER-POWERS AND YOU DON'T.
KRAKOW!
SO I WIN.

UNNGH.
OUCH.
CRAP.
MY LEG'S BUSTED.
OH, MY HEAD-- I MAY HAVE A CONCUSSION--
THIS ISN'T A GOOD THING.
I THINK I'LL BLACK OUT NOW IF THAT'S
HOLD THAT POSE, UGLY--

THOSE FRUITCAKES *TALK* A GOOD FIGHT--
IT'S TIME A *REAL* MAN SHOWS THEM HOW IT'S DONE.
Mace is this sadistic vigilante that's been viciously attacking super-villains the last few months. He rubs me the wrong way. He's been getting a lot of *public support* from a lot of *sick people.*
He should be *jailed* for the things he's done. I'd *love* to be the guy to take down the son of a bitch.

Teen becomes living skeleton in bizarre accident
Police were shocked when a teenaged boy, who was allegedly trying to steal computers from Bio-Tech, a government research facility, fell into a vat of chemicals being developed to clean nuclear waste.
The accident has made all but the boy's skeleton and hair completely transparent.
"This kid won't need to go shopping for a Halloween costume this year." said Officer David Stead.
The youth had apparently snuck past guards and into a very restricted area on a dare from some friends and was in the process of carrying a computer down a hallway when he tripped an alarm that had guards and police running.
Rather than surrender himself to police, the youth made a mad dash for whatever exit he could get to.
Police and guards were taken back by the young man's determination.
"He was like a chicken with his head cut off." Sgt. Frank Darling said, "He was frantically looking for a way out. There was no way he was going to let us stop him."
When the youth scrambled up a ladder and began making his way over a catwalk police thought he might actually make it.
"He was amazing." Darling continued, "He darted amidst boxes and over partitions. It was incredible to watch.
"Eventually, he simply ran out of places to run."
The area was sealed off and police in radiation suits went in after the boy but it was too late.
"Evidently, the youth fell into the chemical vat, although there is a possibility that it was an attempted suicide." police psychiatrist, Jaqueline Abbott said. "The boy had an abusive father and several priors. He said his father would kill him when he found out what had happened."
The chemicals were being used to scrub a holding tank used in storing nuclear waste discharged from the Hanover Nuclear Power plant.
Peter
YOU DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE, FRANKIE.
IDIOT.
I'VE GOT SUPER POWERS--YOU DON'T.
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?
YEAH-- RIGHT. FAT LOT OF GOOD THAT'S GOING TO DO.
FACE IT, FRANKIE.
YOU'RE THROUGH.

NOT THIS TIME, SKULLFACE.
NOT EVER.
SKRASH!
BASTARD!

WRAWW!

JESUS!
DON'T KILL HIM!
STOP!
DROP DEAD, BITCH.
THIS SUCKER'S MEAT!
WHAT HAPPENED, FREAK--COULDN'T HANDLE IT ANY MORE?
COULDN'T TAKE BEING A BIG CELEBRITY--ALL THE ADULATION?
WHAT MADE YOU CRACK?
WHAT CAUSED YOU TO GO BERSERK AND TEAR UP THE GODDAM CITY?
OKK!
OKK!
OKK!
OKK!
KROKK!
KROKK!
KROKK!
KROKK!

IT'S NOT THAT EASY, FRANKIE.
YOU GOT IN A GOOD SHOT-- I'LL GIVE YOU THAT. BUT I'M NOT SOME COMMON CRIMINAL. I'M A SUPER FREAK--ONE OF THE VICIOUS CIRCLE.
YOU'RE WAY OUT OF YOUR LEAGUE, FRANKIE.
YOU DON'T HAVE A PRAYER.
HUFF.
HUFF.
HUFF.
THOUGHT YOU COULD HIDE FROM ME, EH?

KRAK!
DRAGON!

CAN'T HANDLE IT, EH, FREAK?
WELL, I CAN.
SQUITCH.
UNGH.
GET UP, FREAK--GET UP!
I'M JUST GETTING STARTED.
CHRIST.
WHERE THE HELL AM I?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
STOP!!
--HE'S COMING OUT OF IT.
DON'T HURT HIM!
I DON'T GIVE A DAMN.

BEAUTIFUL.
NOWHERE LEFT TO RUN, FRANKIE--
STAY BACK--
I'M WARNING YOU.
STAY BACK!
FL'CK FL'CK
YOU'RE A RIOT, FRANKIE.
I'M PISSIN' MYSELF LAUGHIN' SO HARD.
ENOUGH, ALREADY.
IT'S OVER.

KLAK-A-
LAKK-A-
LAKK!
HUNGHH!

SHOW'S OVER, MACE.
GO TO SLEEP.
NOW WHAT WAS THAT ALL...
ABOUT...

SON OF A--
KRUNK!
GO TO HELL, SKULLFACE.

SHE-DRAGON SEEMS TO BE BREATHING. I DON'T SEE ANY DAMAGE--
WE GOT US A LIVE ONE HERE!
OUCH.
OUCH.
OUCH.
OUCH.
I MAY HAVE A CONCUSSION AND I THINK MY LEG IS BROKEN.
I SCREWED UP, BOSS.
OBVIOUSLY.
MACHO MAN, HERE, WOULDN'T JOIN THE FORCE.
I FIGURED HE'D END UP ON THE RECEIVING END OF ONE OF YOUR HAYMAKERS EVENTUALLY.
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?
HANG ON, LET'S TAKE A PEEK UNDER THIS CREEP'S MASK WHILE HE'S STILL UNCONSCIOUS.
WHY, PHIL -- HE'S DREAMY.
OH, YUCK.

Super-sidekick's career ends in disaster

Young-Tough,' the boy companion of Super-Tough was found yesterday at the sight of the Nega-bomb test sight. He was in critical condition and is recovering at Hillman Hospital.

Young-Tough sustained radiation burns on the upper portion of his head. He got the burns when he witnessed the Nega-bomb explode after it had been set off prematurely by Damien Darklord, the duo's most persistent foe.

Super-Tough and Damien Darklord are missing and believed dead after a disastrous confrontation that ended with the brutal killing of fourteen hostages and the destruction of the Ft. Heaton Military Base. Young-tough was among the six survivors of the Nega-bomb explosion that leveled the base.

The events that transpired the day of the explosion are becoming all too typical with the proliferation of super-powered evil-doers [illegible] world [illegible] appr[illegible]

Peter Davidson, a hostage, also sustained extensive radiation burns.

"The tragic thing about Young-Tough is that he'd been accepted into the Youngblood program." Sean Welch a Youngblood spokesman said. "He would have joined the team as early as next fall after he'd finished his training.

"With the damage to his face as well as possible brain damage, I'm afraid Youngblood just isn't in this young man's future.".

Which leaves many to speculate about Youngblood itself. Briana Corrigan, who used to be part of the Youngblood publicity department was once quoted as saying, "Youngblood is about the young and beautiful. An ugly hero isn't welcome. This isn't about competence, it's about appearance. Image is everything. [illegible] got to be beautiful to [illegible] profile.

That [illegible] alw[illegible]

may feel it's unfair that a hero like Young-Tough could have the rug pulled out from underneath him.

"Young-Tough has lost millions of dollars in an instant. Had he ducked for cover instead of peering over the bunker to see the explosion he'd have joined Youngblood and become a wealthy celebrity. As it is now, he'd be lucky to get a job selling pencils on a street corner." Butcher added.

[illegible]ged[illegible]

Dave Hemingway.

Young-Tough was part of one of the least publicized crime fighting teams.

"Their battles were few and their adversaries were relatively unspectacular." Hemingway ad[illegible] ec[illegible]

For Young-Tough the crushing blow of reality must hit harder than those of any foe.

BOOM!!

JESUS.

DON'T BE DEAD.
DON'T BE DEAD.
DON'T BE DEAD.
DON'T BE DEAD.
ALEX!
ALEX!
LEAVE HER ALONE, YOU GREEN FREAK--
HAVEN'T YOU DONE ENOUGH?
WHO...?
I'M HER BOYFRIEND.
NOW GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE AND LEAVE US ALONE!
OH, BABY... WHAT DID HE DO TO YOU?

EASY, WIDOW.
DRAGON WAS SO SAVAGE, SO BRUTAL--NOT LIKE BEFORE.
SHE WAS LUCKY--THE DEBRIS LANDED IN SUCH A WAY SHE WASN'T CRUSHED BEYOND RECOGNITION.
SHE MAY MAKE IT.
YOU BASTARD.
WHAT THE HELL GOT INTO YOU?
IF YOU THINK THAT I OR ANYBODY ELSE IS GOING TO LET YOU STAY ON THE POLICE FORCE AFTER THIS LITTLE INCIDENT THEN YOU'RE SADLY MISTAKEN. I'M GOING TO HAVE YOU RUN SO FAR OUT OF TOWN THAT YOU'LL NEVER FIND YOUR WAY BACK. IN ALL OF MY
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
I'M GOING TO HELP, DARREN.
ALL I CAN DO, AT THIS POINT, IS TO TRY AND UNDO SOME OF THE DAMAGE I'VE DONE.

WHAT IS THAT THING?
IT DOESN'T LOOK HUMAN.
WHATEVER IT IS -- IT LOOKS DEAD.
YOU PUT UP A GOOD FIGHT, I'LL ADMIT, SKULLFACE--
BUT WHEN IT CAME RIGHT DOWN TO IT-- I KNEW THE TERRITORY AND YOU DIDN'T.
SO I WON.

DRAGON GOES BERSERK

Chicago's super-cop causes super destruction

After a rampage that lasted nearly 12 hours, 13 are dead and [illegible]

have arisen questioning Officer Dragon's importance to the force.

"Not only do I think he's unnecessary," said Lieut[illegible] Darren "Bull" McC[illegible] I think he[illegible]

including Sgt. Julian Graham who was literally torn in half when Officer Dragon hit him with his full force.

"This is intolerable. The Freak Force program w[illegible]ned and member[illegible]

went on to say that "This can't go on forever. W[illegible] can't[illegible]

and tha[illegible]se that did the trick or so it seemed.

A similar leech found on the neck of Christopher Vantage, a homeless man who goes by the name the Shrew and went on a killing spre[illegible] early last year.

Mr. Vantage was [illegible] found not guilty by reaso[illegible] insanity [illegible]ing ba[illegible] police[illegible] it had [illegible] he had a [illegible] One the po[illegible] d[illegible] contends, that cau[illegible] go on his rampage[illegible]

"A similar [illegible] occurred several [illegible] past," said Captain Stewart[illegible]

OFFICER DRAGON IS THE *BIGGEST* MENACE THE CITY OF CHICAGO HAS *EVER* FACED! HE SHOULD BE HUNTED DOWN LIKE A *DOG!*

THE... "*THEORY*" THAT HE WAS DRIVEN TEMPORARILY INSANE BY SOME KIND OF LEACH ON HIS NECK IS *PREPOSTEROUS!* WE LET THAT *SHREW* FREAK GET AWAY WITH *SLAUGHTERING* INNOCENT PEOPLE IN THE PAST--IT MUST *NOT* HAPPEN AGAIN!

THESE *FREAKS* THINK THEY CAN WALK ALL OVER THE *COMMAN* MAN--THAT WE'LL JUST *TAKE* IT AND *NOT* FIGHT BACK--BUT I SAY TO *HELL* WITH THAT!

AS CITIZENS WE SHOULD RISE UP--TAKE *BACK* OUR CITY FROM THESE VIOLENT FREAKS AND GIVE IT BACK TO THE HONEST HARD WORKING CITIZENS THAT IT BELONGS TO!

OFFICER DRAGON MUST BE *STOPPED* BEFORE IT'S TOO--

KLIK

OH, *SHUT* UP.

HEY--*NOW* YOU'RE TALKIN'.

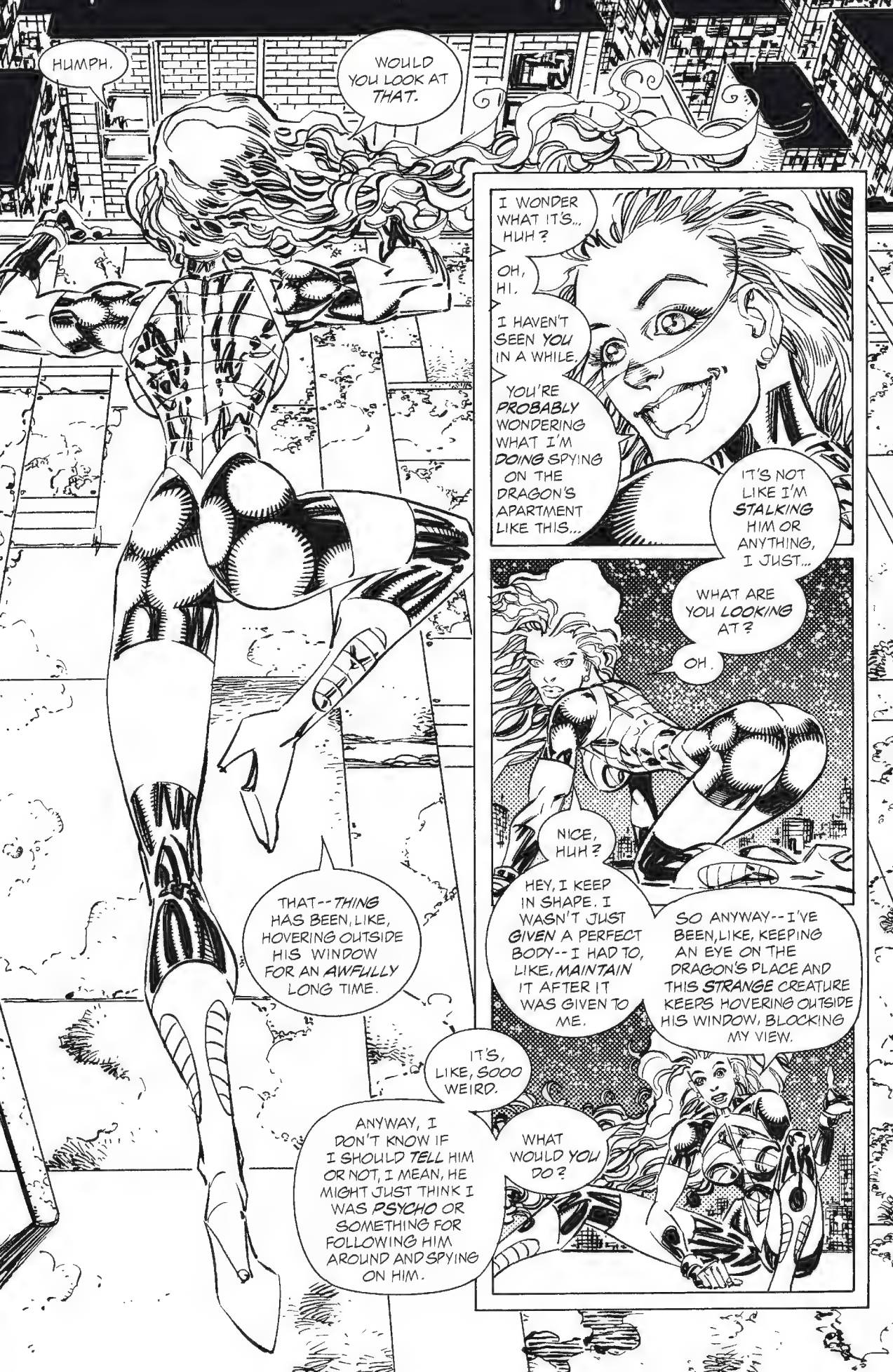
...WAS REUNITED TODAY WITH HER LONG LOST SON, RODNEY. AFTER MAKING THE TALK SHOW CIRCUIT, CONVINCED THAT OFFICER DRAGON OF THE CHICAGO POLICE WAS HER SON, SHE WAS *SURPRISED* TO FIND--

DRAGON, CHECK OUT THE TEARFUL REUNION.
HMM ?
-- NO GOOD, DRAG-ASS, LOW LIFE, GOOD FOR NOTHING BUM !
HOW COULD YOU LET ME GO ON AND MAKE A FOOL OUT OF MYSELF ON TV LIKE THAT ?
MA !
I JUST LOVE A HAPPY ENDING.
HEE HEE HEE !
MAN, WHAT A NEWS DAY ! YOU GET POSSESSED AND TEAR UP CHICAGO --
ALIENS INVADE NEW YORK --
SKULLFACE IS FOUND IN NEW ORLEANS BURNED TO A CRISP --
YOUNGBLOOD --
WHAT THE...?
HEY !
HOLD ON A SECOND.
UNNGH !
OOOF !
SIT DOWN AND DO AS YOU'RE TOLD.
YOU WERE SAYING ?
YOU HAVEN'T LOST YOUR TOUCH.

SHE'S GOING TO MAKE IT THEN?
THANK GOD.
DAMN RIGHT, I'D LIKE TO BE THERE BUT HER BOYFRIEND'S HANGING AROUND AND I DON'T THINK HE LIKES ME TOO MUCH RIGHT NOW. THE LAST THING I WANT TO DO IS CAUSE A RUCKUS AT A HOSPITAL, ESPECIALLY IF IT WOULD UPSET ALEX.
YEAH.
OKAY, THEN, LET ME KNOW IF ANYTHING CHANGES.
IF YOU DON'T COME TO BED SOON, I'M GOING TO START WITHOUT YOU.
ALEX IS GOING TO MAKE IT.
I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER.
WHILE YOU WERE TEARING UP THE CITY, ME AND FREAK FORCE STOPPED AN ALIEN INVASION--
HOW ABOUT A LITTLE GRATITUDE?
HOO-HAH!
BASTARD.

FIRST YOU SEDUCE MY DAUGHTER--
THEN YOU SEE THAT SHE'S MURDERED.
AND NOW YOU SLEEP WITH THIS WHORE.
I HATE YOU MORE THAN YOU'LL EVER KNOW.
NOW, AT LAST, I HAVE THE POWER TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE SITUATION. SOON I'LL SEE YOU DEAD. THE PIECES ARE FALLING INTO PLACE. WITH EVERY PASSING DAY MY HATE AND POWER GROW.
SOON, DRAGON...
VERY SOON...
SUCCESS.
THE TEST SUBJECT PERFORMED AS ANTICIPATED...
EVEN BETTER THAN EXPECTED...
HIS MELEE WAS WONDERFUL TO BEHOLD...
AND STILL THEY ARE NO CLOSER TO FINDING THE TRUTH THAN THEY EVER WERE.

THEY GO ABOUT THEIR DAILY ROUTINES, FIGHT THEIR PUNY BATTLES, OBLIVIOUS TO THEIR IMPENDING DOOM.
IN THE END, THEIR EFFORTS AMOUNT TO NOTHING. THIS WORLD WILL BE OURS, AND THEY CAN DO NOTHING TO STOP IT.
OUR ARMY INCREASES. AS DOES OUR INFLUENCE...
IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME...
HORDE WILL COMMAND THIS MUDBALL.


HUMPH.
WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT.
I WONDER WHAT IT'S... HUH?
OH, HI.
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A WHILE.
YOU'RE PROBABLY WONDERING WHAT I'M DOING SPYING ON THE DRAGON'S APARTMENT LIKE THIS...
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M STALKING HIM OR ANYTHING, I JUST...
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
OH.
NICE, HUH?
HEY, I KEEP IN SHAPE. I WASN'T JUST GIVEN A PERFECT BODY--I HAD TO, LIKE, MAINTAIN IT AFTER IT WAS GIVEN TO ME.
SO ANYWAY--I'VE BEEN, LIKE, KEEPING AN EYE ON THE DRAGON'S PLACE AND THIS STRANGE CREATURE KEEPS HOVERING OUTSIDE HIS WINDOW, BLOCKING MY VIEW.
WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
IT'S, LIKE, SOOO WEIRD.
THAT--THING HAS BEEN, LIKE, HOVERING OUTSIDE HIS WINDOW FOR AN AWFULLY LONG TIME.
ANYWAY, I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD TELL HIM OR NOT, I MEAN, HE MIGHT JUST THINK I WAS PSYCHO OR SOMETHING FOR FOLLOWING HIM AROUND AND SPYING ON HIM.

I WOULDN'T TELL HIM-- THAT'S FOR SURE.
YEAH, WHAT'S HE GONNA THINK?
THAT YER BLOODY ODD, THAT'S WHAT.
HOW COME YOU ALWAYS FALL FOR THE GUYS THAT HURT YOU? THAT'S WEIRD, AMY. THAT'S SICK.
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
OH, COME ON, AMY-- YOUR FATHER KNOCKED YOU ABOUT AND ABUSED YOU. JOHNNY REDBEARD DID THE SAME AND THOSE GUYS FROM THE NIXED MEN? DON'T GET ME STARTED ON THOSE LOSERS...
I HAVEN'T FALLEN FOR THE DRAGON, ALL RIGHT? HE'S A FRIEND. I'M GOING TO GO THROUGH THE POLICE ACADEMY SOON AND I WANT TO--
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE KIDDING, SWEETHEART? YOU'RE STALKING THE GUY AND PEEPING INTO HIS APARTMENT--NOT EXACTLY STANDARD OPERATING PRO--
AMY'S LOST IT, JOE--SHE DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE'S SAYIN'. OF COURSE SHE'S IN LOVE WITH HIM--HE SMACKED HER AROUND THE OTHER DAY DIDN'T HE?
THAT'S NOT FAIR, KELLY. HE WAS, LIKE POSSESSED! HE HAD ONE OF THOSE LITTLE LEECH THINGEES ON HIS NECK AND IT DROVE HIM WILD.
OH, COME NOW, YOU ACTUALLY BELIEVE THAT RUBBISH.
It could happen.
OH, WHAT DO YOU KNOW?
OKAY, OKAY--THAT'S ENOUGH.
SO, WHAT SHOULD I DO ABOUT THAT THING?
LEAVE IT ALONE-- WHO KNOWS WHAT IT'S CAPABLE OF--
BETTER IT HURTS HIM THAN YOU, AMY.
IF WE KEEP TALKIN' IT'S BOUND TO NOTICE--
COOL-- MAYBE YOU COULD GET IN A FIGHT WITH IT!
I'M NOT THAT CRAZY.

LOOK AT YOU.
IT'S POSITIVELY SICKENING.
PRANCING AROUND WITH THAT HOOKER.
DISGUSTING.
YOU TOOK MY DAUGHTER FROM ME, YOU BASTARD.
YOU DEFILED HER--THEN LET HER DIE!
SEEING YOU INCREASES MY HATRED--
HATRED INCREASES MY POWER!
VERY SOON, YOU GREEN-SKINNED FREAK...
VERY SOON...
YOU'LL BE DEAD!

OH, DRAGON--
YOU... ANIMAL.

THAT WAS FUN.
CAN YOU WAIT UP ME?
I'LL TRY--THAT HAIR OF YOURS TAKES FOREVER TO DRY AND I'VE GOT A PRESS CONFERENCE I'VE GOT TO BE AT.
I'VE GOT TO DEFEND MYSELF AGAIN REGARDING THAT WHOLE LEECH INCIDENT.
BLOW HARD
WHEN A GUY GOES BERSERK AND TEARS UP THE CITY, NOBODY WANTS TO LET HIM OFF EASY--IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT THE REASON IS.
TELL YOU WHAT, I'LL MAKE BREAKFAST.
DON'T DO ME ANY FAVORS, HON'.
I'LL GRAB A BAGEL OR SOMETHING.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY COOKING?
KNOCK KNOCK
WOULD YOU GET THAT, HONEY--
I DON'T WANNA END UP LIKE YOUR LAST GIRLFRIEND.
OUCH.
KNOCK KNOCK
KEEP YOUR SHIRT ON.

NOT IN OUR BUILDING
WITH DRAGON
WHAT IS IT?
WE -- UH, WE'RE CONCERNED NEIGHBORS AND, UH...
--WE WANT YOU OUT OF OUR BUILDING, MAN.
DEBBIE HARRIS WAS SHOT IN YOUR APARTMENT, HER BOYFRIEND COMMITTED SUICIDE HERE AND THE LOBBY WAS DESTROYED WHEN YOU FOUGHT ONE OF YOUR SUPER-FOES THERE.
AND YOU JUST KILLED A BUNCH OF PEOPLE WHEN YOU WENT CRAZY--
IT JUST ISN'T SAFE FOR...
LOOK, I CAN EXPLAIN-- MY MIND WAS BEING CONTROLLED, IT'S NOT LIKE--
I ASSURE YOU-- HE'S COMPLETELY BACK TO NORMAL.
RAPTURE!
SLAM
YOU'RE INCORRIGIBLE.
AIN'T IT THE TRUTH.

AHEM.
EXCUSE ME, OVERLORD.
=KAKK=
CAN'T YOU SEE I'M BUSY?
YES, SIR.
TZOPTOK!
YOU WERE SAYING ...?
YOU WERE IN CHARGE OF FINDING CYBERFACE.
HE WAS REVIVED BY PROJECT: BORN AGAIN.
HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS WHO I AM UNDER THIS MASK.
YOU WERE TO BRING ME HIS BLOODIED CORPSE.
IN THAT, YOU HAVE FAILED TO DELIVER.
YOU'VE FAILED ME FOR THE LAST TIME, KILLZONE.
LIEUTENANT FRANK DARLING IS CONFIRMED ALIVE. OUR MAN ON THE NEW ORLEANS POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORTS THAT HIS PRINTS WERE FOUND IN A SMASHED BUS THAT HAD, APPARENTLY, BEEN USED TO RUN INTO SKULLFACE.
ALSO, SKULLFACE IS IN SERIOUS BUT STABLE CONDITION AFTER HIS ENCOUNTER WITH THE EXPLODING GAS TRUCK.
THAT IS ALL.
I'LL BE... UH... GOING NOW, SIR.

SHOW'S OVER--MOVE IT ALONG...
OFFICER DRAGON HAS NO FURTHER COMMENT.
LOOK--I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.
I'M SORRY IT HAPPENED BUT I COULDN'T--
MURDERER!
FREAK!
WITH THE CROWD CHANTING ANTI-POLICE SLOGANS, OFFICER DRAGON TRIED TO DEFEND HIS ACTIONS THAT LEFT 13 DEAD AND 46 WOUNDED.
INCLUDING THE DEATH OF SERGEANT JULIAN GRAHAM, A FELLOW POLICE OFFICER.
IT'S BEEN A TOUGH WEEK FOR THE MAN THAT WAS ONCE HAILED AS CHICAGO'S ONLY HOPE AGAINST THE SUPER-FREAK MENACE.
AHHH.
IT'S COME TO THIS.
THE OCTOPUS MAN THAT DRAGON WAS PURSUING IS STILL AT LARGE AND HIS FOE, CESSPOOL, WALKED AFTER IT WAS DETERMINED...
THEY'RE ON MY SIDE.
PUBLIC OPINION HAS TURNED--
NOW THEY ALL WANT HIS HEAD ON A PLATTER.
YES, SIR.

YOU...
HAVE...
GOT...
TO...
BE...
KIDDING ME!
HOW COULD YOU LET HIM WANDER OFF LIKE THAT?!
ASLEEP. I FELL.
CHRIST. WHY DO WE EVEN TRY...
FEEZLE, YOU KNOW THAT HIS LIFE IS IN DANGER-- WE WERE TRYING TO PROTECT HIM.
SORRY AM I, WIDOW.
GOSH. I HOPE HE'S OKAY.

R, RICHARD RICHARDS! RIGHT ON TIME. I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU!
COME IN! COME IN!
HERE'S THE LITTLE TOY I'VE BEEN PLAYING AROUND WITH FOR YOU. THE KNIGHT MOTIF DIDN'T QUITE WORK OUT BUT I'M SURE YOU'LL AGREE THAT THIS DESIGN IS AS APPROPRIATE AND IS, IN ADDITION, MORE EFFECTIVE IN COMBAT.
WELL--IS IT EVERYTHING I PROMISED?
MR. RICHARDS...?
SOLD.

THAT DUDE'S BEEN PRACTICALLY LIVING AT THE HOSPITAL.
DAMN.
I'D REALLY LIKE TO SEE ALEX BUT I DON'T WANT TO CAUSE A SCENE.
ALEX! ALEX! ALEX! WHAT'S WITH YOU AND THAT WOMAN ANYWAY?!
SHE'S A FRIEND. SHE WAS HURT WHEN I WENT ON THAT RAMPAGE.
IS THAT ALL?
YEAH, THAT'S ALL.
THE WAY YOU TALK ABOUT HER MAKES ME THINK OTHERWISE.
YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS.
AM I?
AM I?
I DON'T HAVE TO PUT UP WITH YOUR CRAP--
DRAGON...!
PEOPLE ARE WAITING IN LINE TO PITCH ME CRAP!
SETTLE DOWN, LOVER.
I'M NOT TRYIN' TO ACCUSE YOU OF ANYTHING, IT'S JUST--
YOU'RE MINE, Y'KNOW, AND I DON'T LIKE YOU THINKIN' OF OTHER WOMEN...
I WORK WITH OTHER WOMEN, RAPTURE.
I'M FRIENDS WITH OTHER WOMEN.
I THINK OF OTHER WOMEN!
YOU'RE MY GIRLFRIEND, BUT DAMN IT--ALEX IS STILL A FRIEND.
I CARE FOR HER--AS A FRIEND!
I HURT HER... I HURT OTHERS-- I KILLED SOME--
I FEEL GUILTY, BUT THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO--NOTHING.
POLICE
POLICE
AND IT'S DRIVING ME CRAZY!

OH MY GOD!!

NOW THERE'S SOMETHING YOU DON'T SEE EVERY DAY.

EEAUGH!!

GREETINGS, DRAGON--ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF-- I'M R. RICHARD RICHARDS--THE PUBLISHER OF THE CHICAGO VOICE AND THIS--
--IS THE DRAGON-SLAYER!
NOW, TO END YOUR THREAT TO THE CITIZENS OF THIS CITY-- FOREVER!
CUTE.
DRAGON'S IN TROUBLE-- I GOT TO SAVE HIM!
SEE, I TOLD YOU THAT YOU WERE CRAZY ABOUT HIM.
WHY DON'T YOU SHUT UP?!
♪AMY AND DRAGON SITTING IN A TREE, K-I-S-S-I-
I GOT HIM, BABY.
LET'S SEE HOW WELL THIS PLAYTHING OPERATES WITH A COUPLE HUNDRED VOLTS RUNNING THROUGH IT!

TAKKA-TAKKA-TAKK!
EEAUGH!
RAPTURE-- IT ISN'T WORKING!
YOU'RE HURTING ME!
CRAP.
THIS ISN'T YOUR FIGHT, GIRL.
BUTT OUT!
UNNGH!
WHOK!
RAPTURE!

THIS IS GOING TO BE COOL.
LEAVE HIM ALONE!
ANOTHER ONE!
OH!!
GET OUT OF HERE, GIRL--
THIS IS BETWEEN OFFICER DRAGON AND ME...!
BLAST--YOU MANAGED TO WIGGLE FREE WHILE I WAS DISTRACTED!
YOUR ROBOT'S PRETTY TOUGH, R.R.R.--

BUT I'M BETTING IT'S GOT A WEAK SPOT--AND SMART MONEY IS ON IT BEING YOUR UGLY PUSS.
HOW DO YOU LIKE THEM APPLES? I WAS RIGHT!
IT'S INSIDES AREN'T NEARLY AS TOUGH AS ITS OUTSIDE!
I THINK IT'S DEAD, DRAGON.
YOU NEVER KNOW.

MY HAIR!
MY GORGEOUS HAIR!
IT'S GONE-- ALL OF IT-- GONE!
LOOKING GOOD, BABE.
GOOD JOB, DRAGON.
GEEZ, DRAGON-- PUT ON SOME PANTS.
ARE WE GOING TO GO CATCH THAT IDIOT OR ARE YOU GOING TO SPEND THE REST OF THE DAY SHOWING OFF YOUR GOODIES?
FIRST THINGS FIRST, RAPTURE.
THERE ARE REPORTS TO FILL OUT--AND WE'LL NEED TO GET A WARRANT.
OH, BROTHER-- IS IT ANY WONDER FREAK FORCE DITCHED YOU LOSERS.
S'POSE I'LL GET BACK TO THE OFFICE.
CALL ME LATER, HON'.
SURE.
WE'RE ALL OVER IT, DRAGON.
AM I CORRECT IN ASSUMING YOU'D LIKE TO MAKE THE COLLAR?
I WOULDN'T MISS IT FOR THE WORLD.

ALEX--
HONEY, IT'S
ME...
ALEX?
DAMN
IT--
DRAGON
DID THIS
TO YOU.
DAMN
HIM.
PLEASE
TALK TO ME,
HONEY.
PLEASE.
YOU'VE
GOT TO BE
ALL RIGHT--
YOU'VE
GOT TO.
HONEY...?
D-DRAGON?
IS
THAT
YOU...?
DRAGON...?

YIKES!
DRAGON--MENACE OR THREAT?
HELLO, RRR.
I THINK YOU'VE GOT A PRETTY GOOD IDEA WHY I'M HERE...
IT WASN'T ME!
I DIDN'T DO IT!
COME NOW--YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT.
YOU'RE A KILLER--YOU CRACKED BEFORE AND YOU'LL DO IT AGAIN!
I WAS FIGHTING FOR THE PEOPLE--TAKING BACK OUR CITY.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE LOCKED UP--I WAS TRYING TO PUT AN END TO YOUR EVIL. I'M--
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST.
YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT.
USE IT.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD COME TO THIS.
CAN I HAVE THE DAY OFF?
♪ DON'T FORGET TO WRITE. ♪
@#$%OIN' $#:+
@#$%OIN' @$$HOLE
@#$%OIN' $#!+
@#$%IN' @#$%

YOU'RE A MENACE, MAN.
YOU'RE GOING TO GET US ALL KILLED.
YEAH.
AND WHAT WAS ALL THAT RACKET COMING FROM YOUR APARTMENT?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
I HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN HOME ALL DAY.
SO, BEAT IT.
I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU.
KLIK KLAK
WHAT THE HELL...?
HELLO, DRAGON...

DEBBIE HARRIS lived with her MOTHER in the same building I live in.
DEBBIE spent the night with me and next morning was shot in my apartment.
Thirty minutes PRIOR to that, Mrs. Harris gave the KILLER, Debbies EX-BOYFRIEND a phone call. I can only assume that Mrs. Harris said something to COERCE him to come over gunning for me.
When DEBBIE answered the door instead of ME she was shot dead.
Mrs. Harris blames ME for her daughter's death.
There exists this entity called the FIEND. It feeds on HATRED. It takes over a host body and the stronger the HATRED that person feels, the stronger the CREATURE becomes.
Mrs. Harris has met the FIEND.
And I'm SCREWED.
SFPC

SOMETHING TELLS ME I'M NOT GOING TO GET MY DEPOSIT BACK.

YOU MURDERED MY DAUGHTER, YOU FREAK!

YOU TOOK HER FROM ME--

YOU SEDUCED HER--

YOU DEFILED HER-- THEN LET HER DIE!

FOR THAT, YOU'RE GOING TO PAY!

SEEING YOU NOW INCREASES MY HATRED--
HATRED INCREASES MY POWER!
MY POWER HAS NEVER BEEN GREATER--MY HATRED HAS NEVER BEEN MORE INTENSE!
YOU HAVE FOUGHT THE FIEND BEFORE IN VARIOUS FORMS, BUT YOU'VE NEVER FACED ME AS I AM NOW.
MY HATRED AND STRENGTH HAVE REACHED A LEVEL I'D NOT DREAMT POSSIBLE!
THAT'S JUST SWELL.

MRS. HARRIS--CAN WE TALK?
I DIDN'T KILL YOUR DAUGHTER AND YOU KNOW IT.
ARNOLD DIMPLE DID. HE SHOT HER POINT BLANK AND THEN KILLED HIMSELF AFTER HE'D SEEN WHAT HE'D DONE.
I REALIZE YOU DIDN'T APPROVE OF DEBBIE SPENDING THE NIGHT WITH ME BUT SHE TOLD ME THAT YOU KICKED HER OUT.
YOUR WORDS CANNOT SWAY ME.
I HATE YOU MORE THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE.
AT LAST, I HAVE THE POWER TO KILL YOU! THE PIECES HAVE FALLEN INTO PLACE. EVEN NOW, MY POWER AND HATRED GROW.
YOU TALKED TO ARNOLD YOURSELF. YOU MUST HAVE TOLD HIM THAT DEBBIE WAS HERE WITH ME.
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT HIM TO DO? DID YOU TELL HIM TO CONFRONT ME? TO TALK WITH DEBBIE--WHAT?
DID YOU WANT HIM TO KILL ME?
DON'T TRY TO SHIFT THE BLAME ON ME!
I DIDN'T KILL MY DAUGHTER!
I DIDN'T COWER IN THE BATHROOM WHILE SHE WAS SENT TO ANSWER THE DOOR.
--WHILE SHE WAS SENT TO DIE!
THAT WAS YOUR DOING.
I SHOULD HAVE ANSWERED THE DOOR.
I'VE GOT A THOUSAND FOES WAITING TO KILL ME AND I LET HER ANSWER THE DOOR.
I'VE GOT TO LIVE WITH THAT FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.
BUT I WASN'T THE ONE WHO TOLD THE KILLER TO COME TO MY APARTMENT.
THAT WAS YOUR DOING.
THE BURDEN OF GUILT YOU FEEL WILL SOON BE OVER.
--AS WILL YOUR LIFE.

UNNGH...
SKLIKK!
COME WITH ME.

YOU DARE TO CHALLENGE ME?
I'VE WIELDED THE POWER FOR YEARS--
I BUILT THE EMPIRE WHICH IS THE VICIOUS CIRCLE. THEIR ALLEGIANCE IS TO ME AND ME ALONE.
HOW DARE YOU SUGGEST THAT I GIVE UP EVEN A FRAGMENT OF THAT WHICH I WORKED SO HARD FOR.
HOW DARE YOU--
EH?
BLAM!!!
DIE, OVERLORD--
DIE!!
FWOOSH

YOU'RE NOTHIN', MAN--
YOU'RE OLD NEWS--YOU'RE HISTORY!
YOUR TIME IS OVER, OLD MAN--
IT'S TIME FOR--
ENOUGH!
SNAP!
AND TO THOSE THAT WOULD CHALLENGE ME, BE FOREWARNED THAT THE PUNISHMENT FOR SUCH INSOLENCE--
IS DEATH!
LET THIS BE THE MESSAGE TO ALL WHO WOULD OPPOSE ME--
OVERLORD IS NOW AND FOREVER IN COMMAND OF THE VICIOUS CIRCLE.

SHLUPP.
SKLK.

-KOFF-
-KOFF-
YOU REALLY KNOW HOW TO -KOFF- HURT A GUY.
SHUT UP.
JUST SHUT THE HELL UP.
DEBBIE LOVED ME, MRS. HARRIS--
I TOOK HER IN WHEN YOU THREW HER OUT.
WAS I SO WRONG?
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE HAD ME DO?
YOU...
LET...
HER...
DIE!
SHE RAN AWAY FROM ME--
YOU TOOK HER FROM ME--
AND NOW SHE'S DEAD!

THAT'S RIGHT...
COME HERE, MY PRECIOUS.
COME TO POPPA.
THAT'S A GOOD BOY.

WRENCH!
TIME TO GET UP, DEAR.
RISE AND SHINE!
JESUS!

IT'S YOUR MOTHER, DEAR.
I BROUGHT YOUR LITTLE FRIEND.
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING.
IT CAN'T BE.
YOU REMEMBER OFFICER DRAGON, DON'T YOU..
THE FREAK WHO MOLESTED YOU THEN LET YOU DIE!!
DEBBIE...?

OH, DRAGON--
I MISSED YOU SO MUCH!
HEY!
HEY!!
THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT!
NOW YOU LISTEN TO YOUR MOTHER--
I DON'T WANT YOU SEEING THAT FREAK ANY MORE.
OH, CHRIST.
DO YOU HEAR ME?
BUT, MOM...!
HE'S AN EVIL MAN, DEBBIE.
HE'S A MURDERER!

FRANK DARLING IS ALIVE!
REPORTS FROM THE NEW ORLEANS POLICE DEPARTMENT INDICATE THAT HIS PRINTS WERE FOUND IN THE SMASHED BUS THAT RAN INTO SKULLFACE.
APPARENTLY, THERE WAS A TRAIL OF DEBRIS THAT INDICATED ONE HECK OF A BRAWL.
SKULLFACE IS IN STABLE CONDITION AFTER HE LANDED ON A GAS TRUCK WHICH EXPLODED. LOOKS LIKE OUR BOY WON THAT ROUND.
IT APPEARS AS THOUGH FRANK HAS BEEN ON THE RUN FROM THE VICIOUS CIRCLE EVER SINCE HIS DISAPPEARANCE A FEW MONTHS AGO.
POLICE
FRANK'S CURRENT WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN BUT, HECK, AT LEAST WE KNOW HE'S ALIVE!
IN OTHER NEWS-- MIGHTY MAN IS IN CRITICAL CONDITION AFTER HIS ENCOUNTER WITH BLUDGEON.
SEVERAL MEMBERS OF FREAK FORCE ARE IN THE HOSPITAL FOLLOWING A SKIRMISH THAT LEVELED A FEW CITY BLOCKS.
DAMNED FREAKS.
BLUDGEON IS CURRENTLY PUSHING UP DAISIES AFTER--
WHY DON'T YOU PUT A LID ON IT, RAY?
SOME OF US ARE GETTING PRETTY SICK OF HEARING ABOUT ALL THE GODDAM FREAKS.
GIVE IT A GODDAM REST, WHY DON'T YOU?
IT'S BAD ENOUGH THAT WE'VE GOT TO PUT UP WITH ONE OF THEM ON THE GODDAM FORCE.
OH, THAT REMINDS ME, DRAGON...
STOW IT!
DRAGON'S APARTMENT WAS DESTROYED AND HE'S MISSING.

I'D LIKE TO REINTRODUCE YOU TO SOME OLD FRIENDS--
THESE ARE THE PEOPLE YOU MURDERED ON YOUR LATEST RAMPAGE.
THEY'RE A LITTLE CRANKY ABOUT HAVING THEIR LIVES END PREMATURELY.
I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND.

MOM--WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
IT'S DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN MY FIGURE WHEN I USE ALL THIS POWER.
NOT THAT -- I MEAN EVERYTHING!
YOU COULDN'T REVIVE THE DEAD BEFORE...!
I MET SOMEONE.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU PEOPLE?
CAN I GET A LITTLE EFFORT HERE?
IS THAT TOO MUCH TO ASK FOR?
DRAGON-- HOW COULD YOU DO IT?
I THOUGHT I WAS YOUR FRIEND.
JULIAN! I'M SORRY, MAN!
I WAS POSSESSED BY ONE OF THOSE DAMNED LEECHES!
THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO!
OH, YEAH?
WELL, ME TOO, YOU BASTARD!
DAMN IT!
SPEW!

THAT DOES IT!
I HAVE HAD ENOUGH!
I'VE TRIED TO TAKE IT EASY ON YOU PEOPLE--YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH ENOUGH AS IT IS.
BUT UNDERSTAND THIS--I WAS BEING CONTROLLED WHEN I KILLED YOU. I DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT ANY OF YOU!
BUT I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET YOU KILL ME!
THIS...
WILL...
NOT...
DO.

WILLIAM!
HOW ARE THINGS BACK AT THE STATION?
THE USUAL.
DRAGON'S MISSING AGAIN BUT I'M SURE HE'LL TURN UP.
YOU LOOK GREAT, ALEX.
THEY MUST BE TREATING YOU WELL.
DALE'S BEEN AN ANGEL.
I DON'T KNOW HOW I'D MANAGE WITHOUT HIM.
WHEN ARE YOU OUT OF HERE?
SOON--BUT I'M GOING TO BE OFF THE STREETS FOR A COUPLE OF MONTHS.
DRAGON REALLY DID A NUMBER ON ME.
GUESS I'M LUCKY TO BE ALIVE.
MAN, IS HE EVER SORRY. ONE OF THOSE LEECH THINGS DROVE HIM NUTS.
HE'S BEEN TRYING TO GET AHOLD OF YOU TO APOLOGIZE.
OH, YEAH?
WELL HE MUST NOT HAVE TRIED VERY HARD.
HE SENT FLOWERS, CARDS--A COUPLE OF TELEGRAMS. HE TRIED TO CALL, BUT WAS TOLD YOU WOULDN'T TAKE IT.
I GUESS HE THINKS YOU'RE MAD AT HIM.
HE WOULD HAVE DROPPED BY, BUT HE DIDN'T WANT TO CAUSE A SCENE WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND.
DIDN'T YOU GET ANY OF HIS MESSAGES?
NO.
NO, I DIDN'T.
THAT'S FUNNY.

DEBBIE --HELP ME...
MOM-- DON'T HURT HIM!
I GUESS SOMETIMES IT'S BETTER TO JUST DO THINGS YOURSELF!
=HKKK=
THAT'S QUITE ENOUGH OF THAT.
IF I'D HAVE KNOWN THOSE CORPSES WOULD BE SO INEFFECTIVE, I NEVER WOULD HAVE WASTED MY POWER REVIVING THEM.
SHUSH, DEAR.
IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.
KRAK!!

HAAK!!!
MOM-- YOU'RE HURTING HIM!
THAT'S RIGHT, DEAR.
DON'T!
CLAP CLAP
HOO HOO!
CLAP
YES!
CLAP CLAP
I WON'T BE A MINUTE.

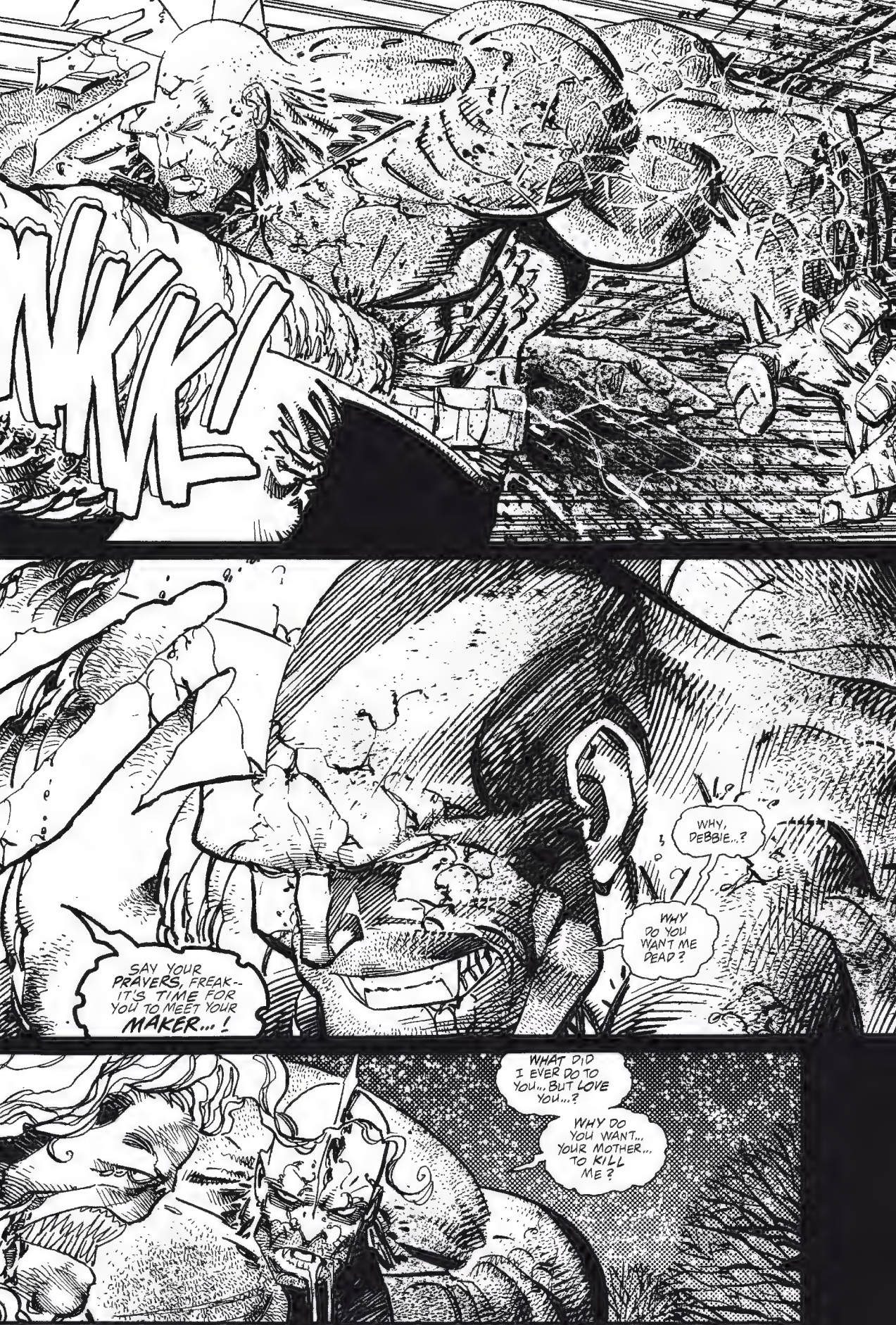
PLEASE, MOMMY.
DON'T HURT HIM ANY MORE.
I LOVE HIM.
LISTEN, DEAR...
HE'S KILLED ALL THESE PEOPLE.
HE LET YOU DIE.
HE'S BEEN SCREWING PROSTITUTES IN HIS APARTMENT...
HE'S NO DAMN GOOD, DEBBIE.
IT'S TIME YOU LET GO OF HIM AND ACCEPT THAT.
NOW, HONEY--
WHAT IS IT YOU WANT ME TO DO WITH THIS FREAK?
KILL HIM, MOMMY.
KILL HIM.
THAT'S RIGHT...
THAT'S A GOOD GIRL.

I RESSURRECTED HER FROM THE DEAD, AND NOW SHE WANTS ME TO KILL YOU.
I THINK THAT ABOUT COVERS IT.
DEBBIE-- NO!
WELL, WELL, WELL... LOOK WHO'S AWAKE.
NOW-- WHERE WERE WE..?
AH, YES-- YOU VIOLATED MY DAUGHTER AND THEN ALLOWED HER TO BE MURDERED.
I ACQUIRED THE MEANS TO EXTRACT REVENGE--
BELIEVE IT, YOU BASTARD.
TELL HIM, DEAR.
DEBBIE-- LISTEN TO ME...
YOUR MOTHER TALKED YOUR EX-BOYFRIEND INTO COMING OVER TO MY PLACE--
HE SHOT YOU WHEN YOU ANSWERED THE DOOR.
IT WASN'T MY FAULT...
KILL HIM, MOMMY.
KILL HIM.
YES, DEAR.

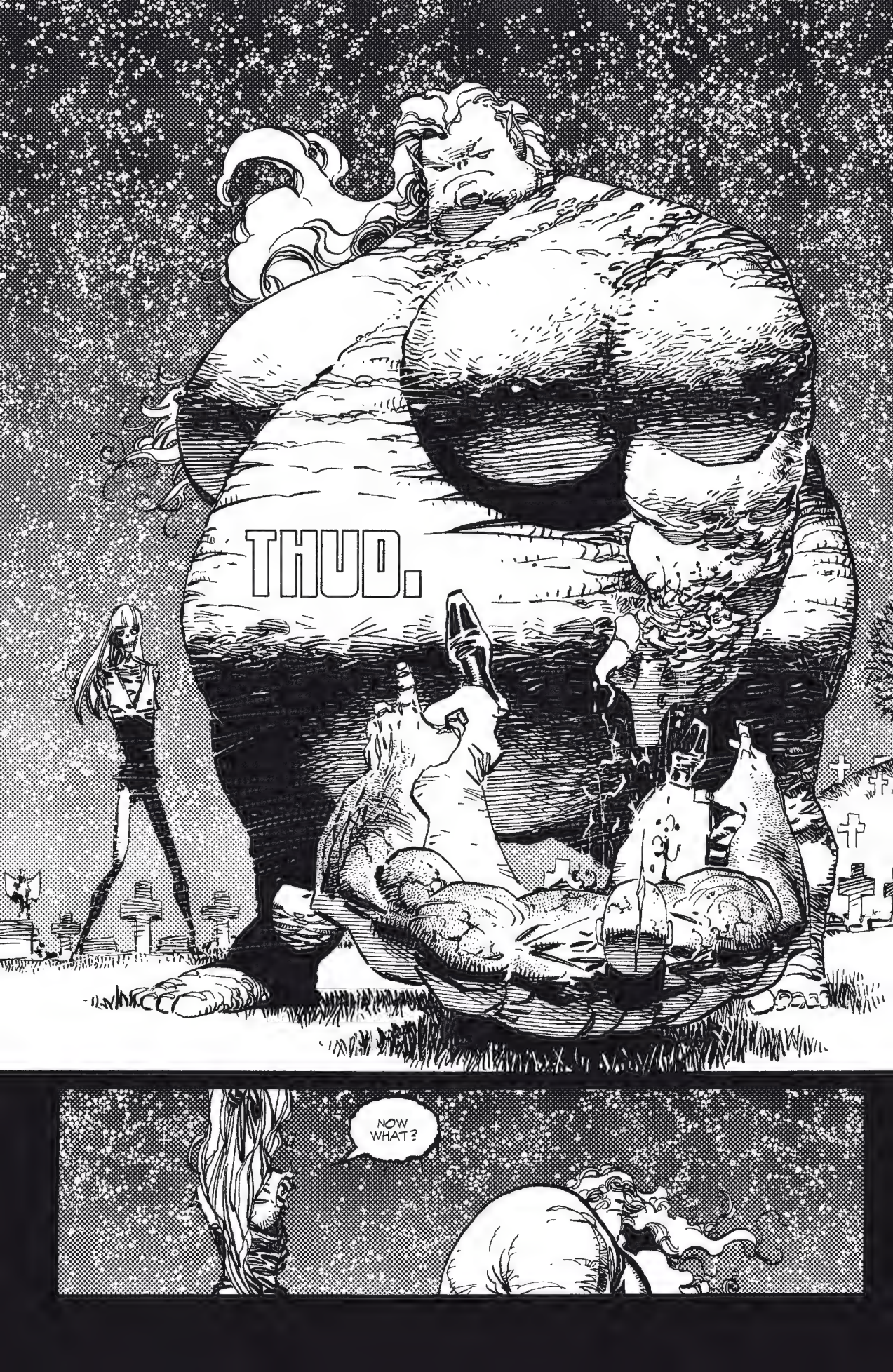
IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANT IT...
WRUMPH!
I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU-- REALLY, I DON'T.
GOOD.
I WANT TO HURT YOU AND YOU HOLDING BACK WILL MAKE MY JOB A LOT EASIER.

=HUNNRRR=
YOU'RE BEING MANIPULATED BY THE FIEND-- YOU AREN'T ACTING RATIONALLY.
IN YOUR HEART, YOU KNOW THAT I DIDN'T INTEND FOR DEBBIE TO GET HURT.
THAP.
YOU'RE LASHING OUT AT ME WHEN THE REAL PERSON TO BLAME IS YOURSELF.
=GHAAA!=
I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU KILL ME.
CHOOM!
GOT IT?

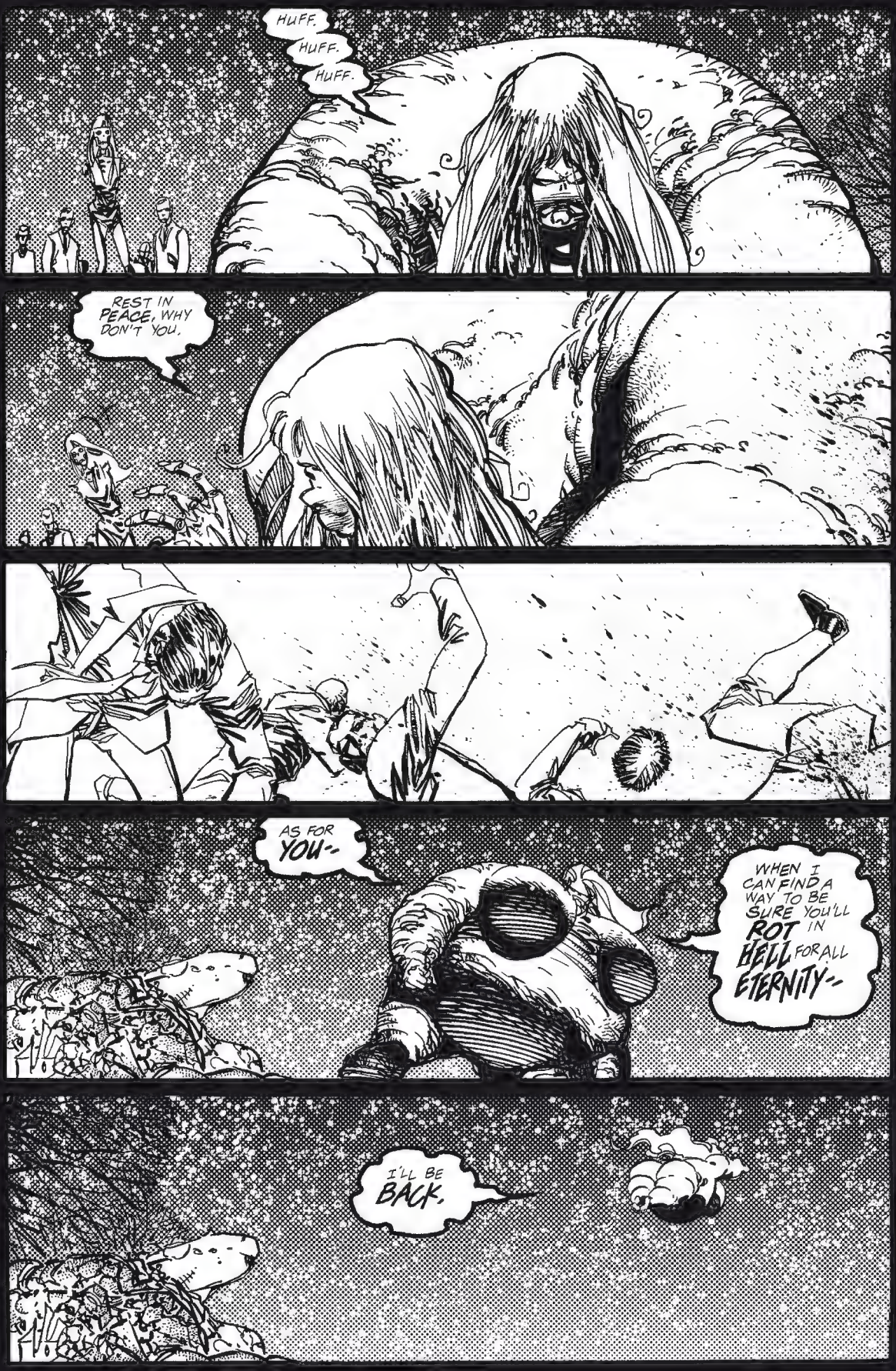
WHO SAID YOU HAD ANY CHOICE IN THE MATTER?
HRU
YOU NEVER SHOULD HAVE TOUCHED MY DAUGHTER.
FREAKS LIKE YOU SHOULD BE TAKEN OUT AND SHOT.
BURNED AT THE STAKE-- CHOPPED UP INTO LITTLE PIECES AND FLUSHED DOWN THE TOILET!
YOU'RE AN ABOMINATION.


SAY YOUR PRAYERS, FREAK-- IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO MEET YOUR MAKER...!
WHY, DEBBIE...?
WHY DO YOU WANT ME DEAD?
WHAT DID I EVER DO TO YOU... BUT LOVE YOU...?
WHY DO YOU WANT... YOUR MOTHER... TO KILL ME?

SO WE CAN BE TOGETHER AGAIN.
--IN HEAVEN.
FOREVER.
DO YOUR WORST, DARLIN'.
EITHER WAY--
I CAN'T LOSE.


THUD.
NOW WHAT?

KRAKK!
SNAP!
KRUKK!
YAK!
SLASH!


HUFF.
HUFF.
HUFF.
REST IN PEACE, WHY DON'T YOU.
AS FOR YOU--
WHEN I CAN FIND A WAY TO BE SURE YOU'LL ROT IN HELL FOR ALL ETERNITY--
I'LL BE BACK.

WHAT IS IT, ALEX?
YOU'VE REALLY BEEN GREAT, DALE.
YOU'VE STAYED BY MY SIDE THROUGHOUT ALL OF THIS -- TOOK OFF VACATION TIME TO BE WITH ME.
YOU'RE EVERYTHING A GIRL COULD HOPE FOR IN A BOYFRIEND -- FAITHFUL, LOYAL, VIGILANT, COMPASSIONATE, CARING...
SO, WHY THE HELL DIDN'T YOU TELL ME DRAGON CALLED TO APOLOGIZE?!?
I... I DIDN'T WANT TO UPSET YOU.
HE PUT YOU IN THE HOSPITAL, AFTER ALL.
I WAS ONLY THINKING OF YOU...
HERE I WAS -- THINKING HE WAS THE WORLD'S BIGGEST JERK FOR NOT CALLING, AND THEN I FIND OUT HE DID -- AND THAT YOU TOLD HIM I DIDN'T WANT TO TALK TO HIM! I OUGHT TO--
WHAT'S ALL THE COMMOTION?
ALEX -- IT'S DRAGON...!
HE'S BEEN BADLY BEATEN.
IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD...!

GOOD GOD, WHAT A MESS.
ALL OF HIS LIMBS ARE BROKEN IN SEVERAL PLACES, AS ARE HIS RIBS, NECK AND SPINE AND HE'S GOT A HOLE IN HIM THE SIZE OF A VOLLEYBALL.
I'M GOING TO NEED MORE DOCTORS IN HERE-- THIS OPERATION HAS GOT TO BE DONE NOW--
HE HEALS SO QUICKLY THAT HIS BONES ARE STARTING TO KNIT THEMSELVES TOGETHER INCORRECTLY.
DOCTOR, HE'S HEALING OVER THE CLAMPS--WE'VE GOT TO MOVE THEM OR THEY'LL BE IRRETRIEVABLE...!
GOOD LORD!
STEADY--
DAMN IT-- HE'S HEALING ONTO THE SCALPEL--
THE OTHERS WILL BE HERE IN A FEW MINUTES.
THEY'D BETTER BE--
OR THIS MAN WILL BE A HOPELESS CRIPPLE--
--AND THE CITY OF CHICAGO WILL LOSE ONE MORE GOOD COP.

DRAGON...!
OH, HONEY...
HI, BABY.
YOU BEEN LISTENING IN ON THE POLICE BAND? CRAZY STUFF.
THERE WAS SOME GANGLAND SLAYING IN RETALIATION FOR AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON OVERLORD.
HAS FREAK FORCE BEEN COVERING FOR ME? LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE SEEN SOME ACTION.
YOU OKAY?
NO. I'M NOT OKAY.
MIGHTY MAN IS IN CRITICAL CONDITION, SO IS RICOCHET. THIS BAD GUY NAMED BLUDGEON BEAT US UP REAL GOOD. THAT, AND DART TAKING OFF HAVE REALLY DONE A NUMBER ON US.
ARE YOU OKAY? YOU LOOK PRETTY MESSED UP.
HEY, I'M ALIVE, BABE--THAT'S ALL I NEED.
THE DOCTORS MANAGED TO GET ALL THE PIECES SORTED OUT AND MY HEALING PROCESS HAS KICKED IN. I OUT TO BE ALL BETTER IN A JIFFY.
I NEED SOME TENDER LOVIN' CARE.
I DON'T S'POSE THERE'S ANY WAY YOU CAN MAKE LOVE IN THAT CONDITION...?
I'D LIKE TO HELP OUT, RAPTURE, BUT...
UH...
LET'S JUST SAY, I HOPE MY HEALING ABILITY WORKS ON ALL PARTS OF MY BODY.

HOWARD, THIS IS STUPID.
I KNOW YOU GOT A TIP ABOUT THAT OCTOPUS DUDE BEING DOWN HERE AND I KNOW YOU'D LIKE TO SHOW UP THE DRAGON BY BRINGING HIM IN BUT WITH YOU HAVING A BUSTED ARM, IT...
SHUT UP, PHIL.
BEFORE THE DRAGON CAME ALONG WE USED TO HANDLE ALL THESE FREAKS OURSELVES.
WE DEPEND ON THAT GUY TOO DAMN MUCH. HE WON'T LIVE FOREVER, Y'KNOW, OR HE MAY JUST GO CRAZY AGAIN AND KILL SOME MORE
I'M NOT-- =URKK=
HOWARD!!
HOWARD?
HOWIE?

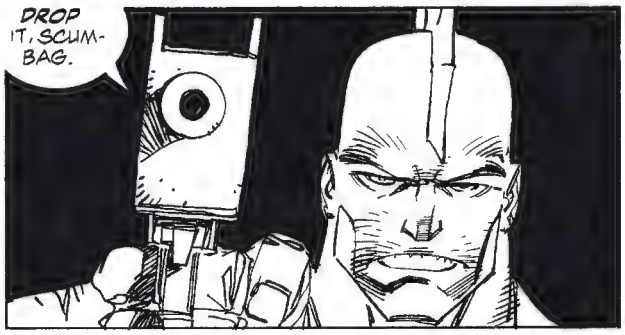
HEY, STRANGER.
ALEX!
ARE... ARE YOU OKAY?
I HEARD THEY FOUND YOU IN A GRAVEYARD, WITH THE CORPSES OF DEBBIE HARRIS AND SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO DIED IN YOUR RAMPAGE LYING AROUND.
YEAH--YOU MISSED A HELL OF A PARTY.
LOOK, I'M SORRY ABOUT THE OTHER DAY--
YOU KNOW I'D NEVER DO ANYTHING TO HURT YOU...!
SURE, I DO.
IT'S GOING TO TAKE SOME TIME TO REBUILD THE TRUST PEOPLE HAD IN YOU.
DON'T I KNOW IT.
SGT. HOWARD NISEMAN HAS BEEN ABDUCTED. THE OCTOPUS MAN HAS BEEN SPOTTED. CALLING ALL UNITS...
OH, MAN...
I'VE BEEN LISTENING TO THE POLICE BAND FOR THE LAST FEW DAYS.
I KEEP HOPING THAT FREAK FORCE, STAR OR THE POLICE CAN PULL TOGETHER--GIVE ME A CHANCE TO REPAIR MYSELF. IT'S NOT WORKING OUT THAT WAY.
I'M NEEDED.
OF COURSE YOU ARE.
BUT YOU'RE IN NO SHAPE TO--
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
KRRKKK
KRKK

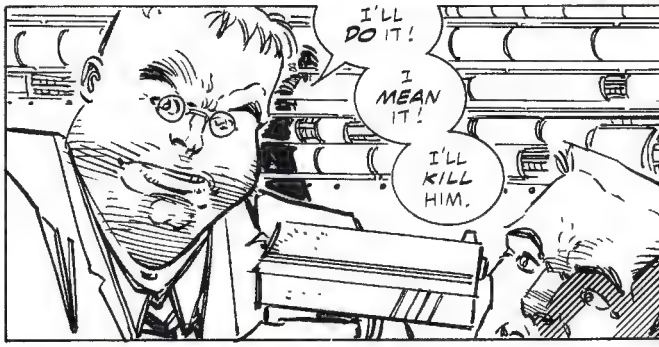
KRAKKA-RAK!
GETTING UP.
JESUS!
I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO...
YOU'VE GOT TO TEACH ME HOW TO DO THAT SOME TIME.
YOU'RE BACK ALREADY?
THAT'S INCREDIBLE.
YEAH, YEAH.
YOU'LL GET OVER IT.
NOW, LET'S GET TO WORK.
WE'VE GOT A MISSING COP TO FIND.

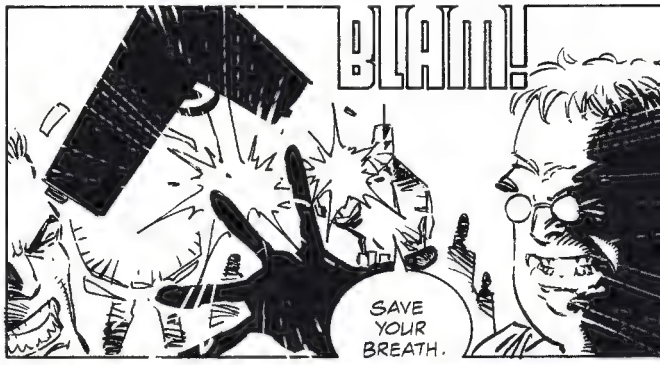
I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING.
SHHH.

HEY!
THEY'RE OVER HERE.
IT'S ABOUT TIME.
THIS PLACE IS MAKING ME NAUSEOUS.

STAY BACK.
ONE WRONG MOVE AND YOUR FRIEND GETS IT!


DROP IT, SCUM-BAG.


I'LL DO IT!
I MEAN IT!
I'LL KILL HIM.


BLAM!
SAVE YOUR BREATH.

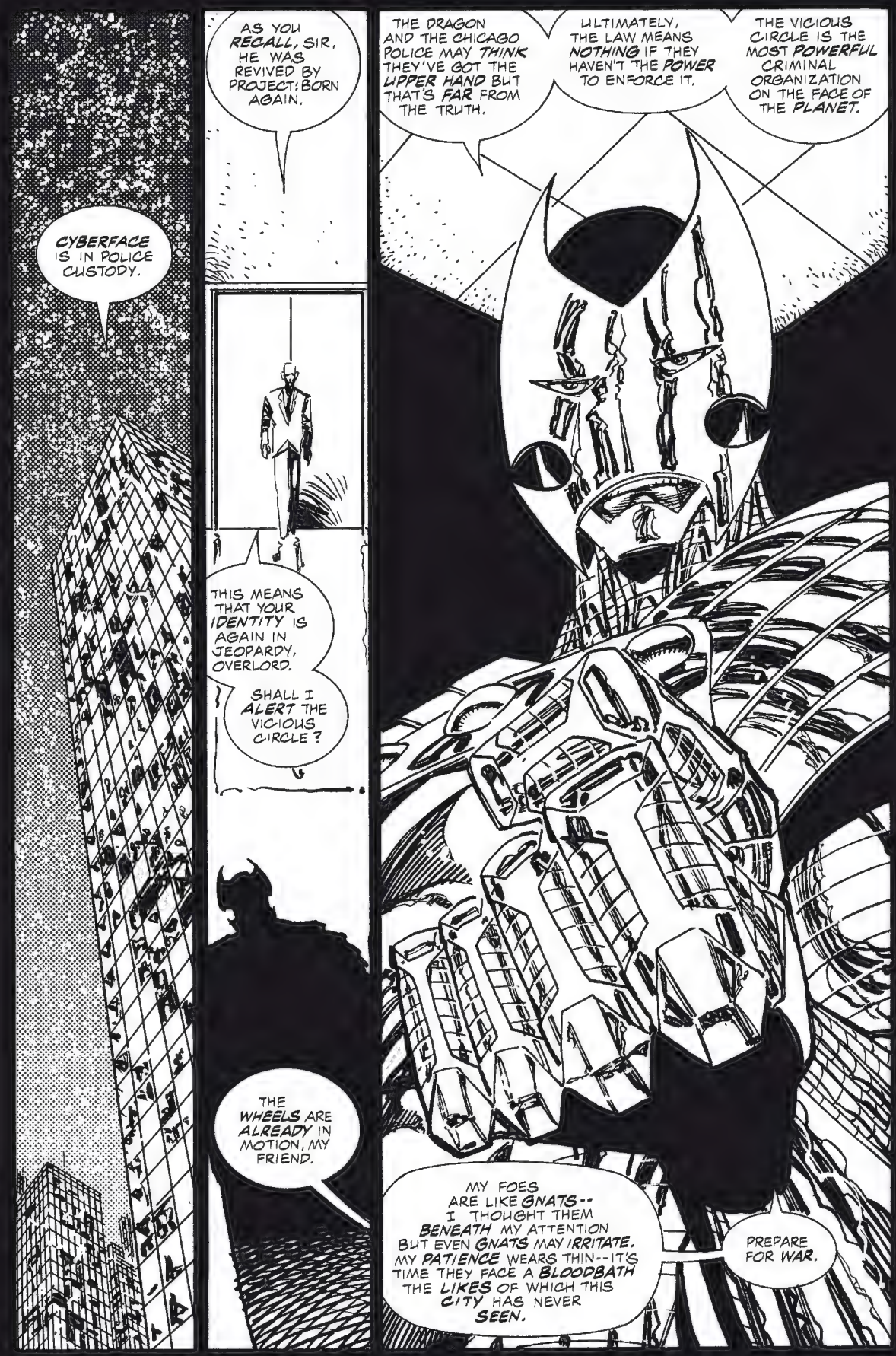
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

=GHAAA!=
GOMP!
=MUMPHH!=
DRAGON!

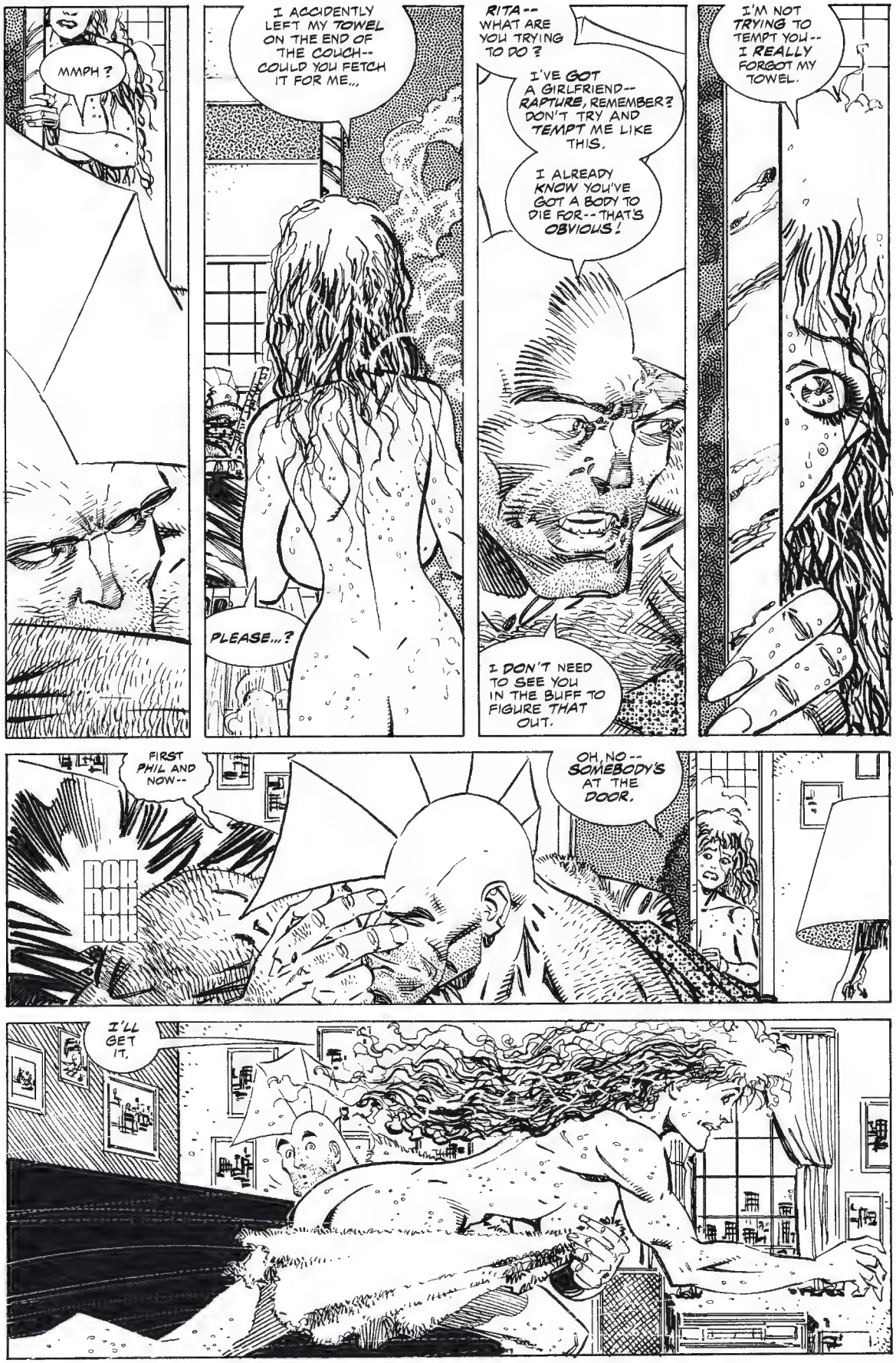
HOWARD'S CLEAR--
WASTE HIM!
FIRE!!
PING
ZINGG
PUNY FLEAS!
I'LL KILL YOU--ALL OF YOU!
THAK
ZING
YOU CAN'T STOP ME!
YOU'LL NEVER =HUNNGH!=
OH, PLEASE...
GIVE IT A REST.
BUDD

HI, HOWIE.
MISS ME?
YEAH, YEAH.
EVERYBODY KNOWS YOU SAVED MY ASS-- YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUB MY NOSE IN IT.
AT LEAST I FOUND THE SUCKER--THAT WAS MORE THAN YOU COULD DO.
DORK KEPT GOING ON ABOUT HIS MASTER PLAN--
--ABOUT HIS SECRET WEAPON THAT WOULD BRING OVERLORD TO HIS KNEES AND PUT HIM IN CHARGE OF THE VICIOUS CIRCLE.
SAID HE KEPT IT IN HERE.
THINK YOU CAN OPEN IT?
I'LL TRY.

WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW...
IT'S CYBERFACE-- THE GUY WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO TESTIFY AGAINST OVERLORD.
WHOA!
THAT MEANS WE CAN FINALLY NAIL THAT SLIPPERY SON OF A BITCH.
IT MUST BE MY BIRTHDAY.


CYBERFACE IS IN POLICE CUSTODY.
AS YOU RECALL, SIR, HE WAS REVIVED BY PROJECT: BORN AGAIN.
THIS MEANS THAT YOUR IDENTITY IS AGAIN IN JEOPARDY, OVERLORD.
SHALL I ALERT THE VICIOUS CIRCLE?
THE WHEELS ARE ALREADY IN MOTION, MY FRIEND.
THE DRAGON AND THE CHICAGO POLICE MAY THINK THEY'VE GOT THE UPPER HAND BUT THAT'S FAR FROM THE TRUTH.
ULTIMATELY, THE LAW MEANS NOTHING IF THEY HAVEN'T THE POWER TO ENFORCE IT.
THE VICIOUS CIRCLE IS THE MOST POWERFUL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION ON THE FACE OF THE PLANET.
MY FOES ARE LIKE GNATS-- I THOUGHT THEM BENEATH MY ATTENTION BUT EVEN GNATS MAY IRRITATE. MY PATIENCE WEARS THIN--IT'S TIME THEY FACE A BLOODBATH THE LIKES OF WHICH THIS CITY HAS NEVER SEEN.
PREPARE FOR WAR.

DRAGON.
DRRRAAAGONNN!
COULD YOU BRING ME A TOWEL?
DRAGON...?


MMPH?
I ACCIDENTLY LEFT MY TOWEL ON THE END OF THE COUCH-- COULD YOU FETCH IT FOR ME...
PLEASE...?
RITA-- WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?
I'VE GOT A GIRLFRIEND-- RAPTURE, REMEMBER? DON'T TRY AND TEMPT ME LIKE THIS.
I ALREADY KNOW YOU'VE GOT A BODY TO DIE FOR-- THAT'S OBVIOUS!
I DON'T NEED TO SEE YOU IN THE BUFF TO FIGURE THAT OUT.
I'M NOT TRYING TO TEMPT YOU-- I REALLY FORGOT MY TOWEL.
FIRST PHIL AND NOW--
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
OH NO-- SOMEBODY'S AT THE DOOR.
I'LL GET IT.

DON'T!
IT COULD BE A TRAP!
--SOMEBODY TRYING TO KILL ME!
DON'T ANSWER THE DOOR!
ARE YOU CRAZY?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
DEBBIE--THEY KILLED DEBBIE.
LET ME--
ANSWER--

WHAT TH' HELL'S GOIN' ON HERE?!
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK...!
RAPTURE, I CAN EXPLAIN...!
EXPLAIN?! EXPLAIN?!!
I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN CRASHIN' WITH OTHER COPS EVER SINCE YOUR APARTMENT WAS DESTROYED-- THAT I UNDERSTAND. THAT, I CAN LIVE WITH.
BUT THIS...! I CAN'T!
CAPTAIN STEWART TOLD ME YOU WERE HERE-- I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT!
WHAT EXACTLY WAS WRONG WITH PHIL'S APARTMENT?
HE KEPT COMING ON TO ME.
LOOK, NOTHING WENT ON HERE -- I DON'T SEE WHY...
YOU DON'T?!
I'M S'POSED TO BE YOUR GIRLFRIEND!
NOT THIS-- THIS-- POSTER GIRL FOR SILICON VALLEY!
=SOB=
AW, GEEZ, HON', YOU UPSET RITA.
LIKE I CARE.

YOU FOOLS!
POLICE
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE!
YOU DON'T REALIZE THE MAGNITUDE OF HIS POWER-- WHAT HE'S CAPABLE OF DOING!
YOU'RE USING HIM TO FINK ON OVERLORD-- THAT'S LIKE USING AN ATOM BOMB TO CLEAN YOUR ROOM!
HE HAS THE POWER TO RULE THE PLANET!
CYBERFACE WAS MINE-- ALL MINE. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SO BEAUTIFUL-- SO SWEET!
HE--
SHUT UP!
JUST SHUT THE HELL UP!
NOBODY WANTS TO LISTEN TO YOUR GODDAM BELLYACHIN'!

WAH-HOO!

JESUS!

HIT 'EM HARD AND FAST.

SKRAKABADOOM!

CYBERFACE MUST DIE!

DO YOUR JOB AND GET OUT!

FREAKS! FREAKS!
GODDAM FREAKS!
YOU GUYS ARE REALLY STARTING TO PISS ME OFF!
LISTEN, HONEY--
OVERLORD IS DROPPING DOWN SOME SERIOUS CASH TO SHUT UP CYBERFACE FOR GOOD-- AND YOU'RE IN THE WAY.
WHY DON'T YOU BE A GOOD LITTLE COP AND LOOK THE OTHER WAY--
AND YOU WON'T GET HURT--
MUCH.
⇒KAK⇐

THAT WAS BEAUTIFUL, VEIN-- WHY DON'T YOU USE YOUR CHARMS ON THESE CREEPS--GET THEM TO TELL US WHERE THEY'VE HIDDEN OUR PREY?
RUN, YOU PATHETIC MAGGOTS --VOLCANIC'S GONNA BURN YOUR ASS!
WHAT'S ALL THE COMMOTION OUT HERE?
SOME OF US ARE TRYING TO TALK ON THE PHONE--!
EEEEAAUGH!!
YEAH, YEAH-- I GUESS I COULD'A INTERROGATED THE CAPTAIN--
INSTEAD OF GRILLING HIM-- =HAW=
I AIN'T NEVER BEEN TOO CRAZY 'BOUT AUTHORITY FIGURES.
IS IT OKAY WITH EVERYBODY IF I JUST FRY THE LOT OF 'EM AND WE CAN PICK OUT THE PIECES LATER?
FRY

--AND WHO'S THIS AMANDA MILLS WOMAN WHO KEEPS CALLING UP THE PRECINCT AND LEAVING MESSAGES?
YOU GETTIN' SOME ON THE SLY?
WOULD YOU STOP ALREADY? SHE'S JUST SOME GIRL I SAVED A WHILE BACK--SHE'S OBSESSED. I'VE NEVER RETURNED ANY OF HER CALLS.
I'M NOT CHEATING ON YOU, OKAY?
I'M PERFECTLY HAPPY WITH YOU, BABY--QUIT TRYING TO SABOTAGE OUR RELATIONSHIP.
IS THIS THE FIRST RELATIONSHIP YOU'VE HAD THAT'S LASTED MORE THAN FIFTEEN MINUTES?
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TRUST--
DRAGON--THE STATION'S UNDER ATTACK--THEY'RE AFTER CYBERFACE.
GOT TO RUN.
CATCH YOU LATER, BABE.
LET'S ROLL.
LONG AS IT AIN'T A ROLL IN THE HAY!
HEY! WAIT FOR--
ME.

ALEX-BE REASONABLE!
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT, DALE.
THE POLICE STATION IS UNDER SIEGE--THEY NEED ALL AVAILABLE UNITS AND BUSTED LEG OR NO--I'M GOING IN.
POLICE
HONEY--BABY, PLEASE... I'M BEGGING YOU.
YOU'LL GET HURT.
I'M ALREADY HURT. AND I MAY GET HURT WORSE BUT Y'KNOW WHAT? IT COMES WITH THE UNIFORM.
POLICE
I'LL BE DAMNED IF I'LL LET MY FELLOW OFFICERS GET KILLED WHILE I SIT HERE ON MY FAT ASS.
NOW GET OUT OF MY WAY!
I WAS ONLY TRYING TO HELP.
DON'T.

JESUS-- THE PLACE IS BEING DESTROYED!
POLICE
THEY'D HAVE STOPPED IF THEY NAILED CYBERFACE--
THAT MEANS WE'RE IN TIME!
BRAKKA
BRAKKA
BRAKKA
GET DOWN!

TZAKK!
RITA-- LOOK OUT!
WILLIAM!
WILLIAM-- OH, GOD! PLEASE DON'T...
YER MAKIN' THIS EASY, TOOTS.
TZAKKA-ZAKK!
I JUST SAVED YOUR BUTT, DAIRY QUEEN.
NOW--KEEP YOUR HOOKS OUT OF MY MAN OR LOSE IT.
OUT OF MY WAY, FLEAS!
YOUR HIDING CYBERFACE-- AND I'M BETTING THAT HE'S RIGHT--
HERE!

GAME OVER, CREEP.

PUT A LID ON IT.
KLIK KLIK KUK KUK KUK
=KAKK=
YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME--
I'M IN A BIT OF A RUSH--
I'VE ONLY GOT TIME FOR ONE HAYMAKER EACH!
BAM!
ARGHH!
OUCH--CRAP! MAN, THAT HURTS --THESE THINGS ARE EXTENSIONS OF MY BODY...!
POLICE
UH HUH.
FRIEND OF YOURS?
ACTUALLY, WE'RE NOT THAT CLOSE.

CHRIST-- WHAT A MESS!
GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, FRANK.
IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK.
I WISH IT WERE UNDER MORE PLEASANT CIRCUMSTANCES.
HELLO, MISS WILDE. IS THAT A NEW AFTERSHAVE YOU'RE WEARING?
POLICE
DROP DEAD.
HE'LL BE OKAY, WON'T HE?
TELL ME HE'LL BE OKAY...!

BABY...?
NOT NOW, HONEY.
DRAGON...

WHEN?
LATER.
CAPTAIN STEWART'S DEAD, SO ARE SOME OF THE OTHERS AND THE WOUNDED ARE...

YOU'RE NO FUN ANYMORE.
DRAGON, LISTEN...

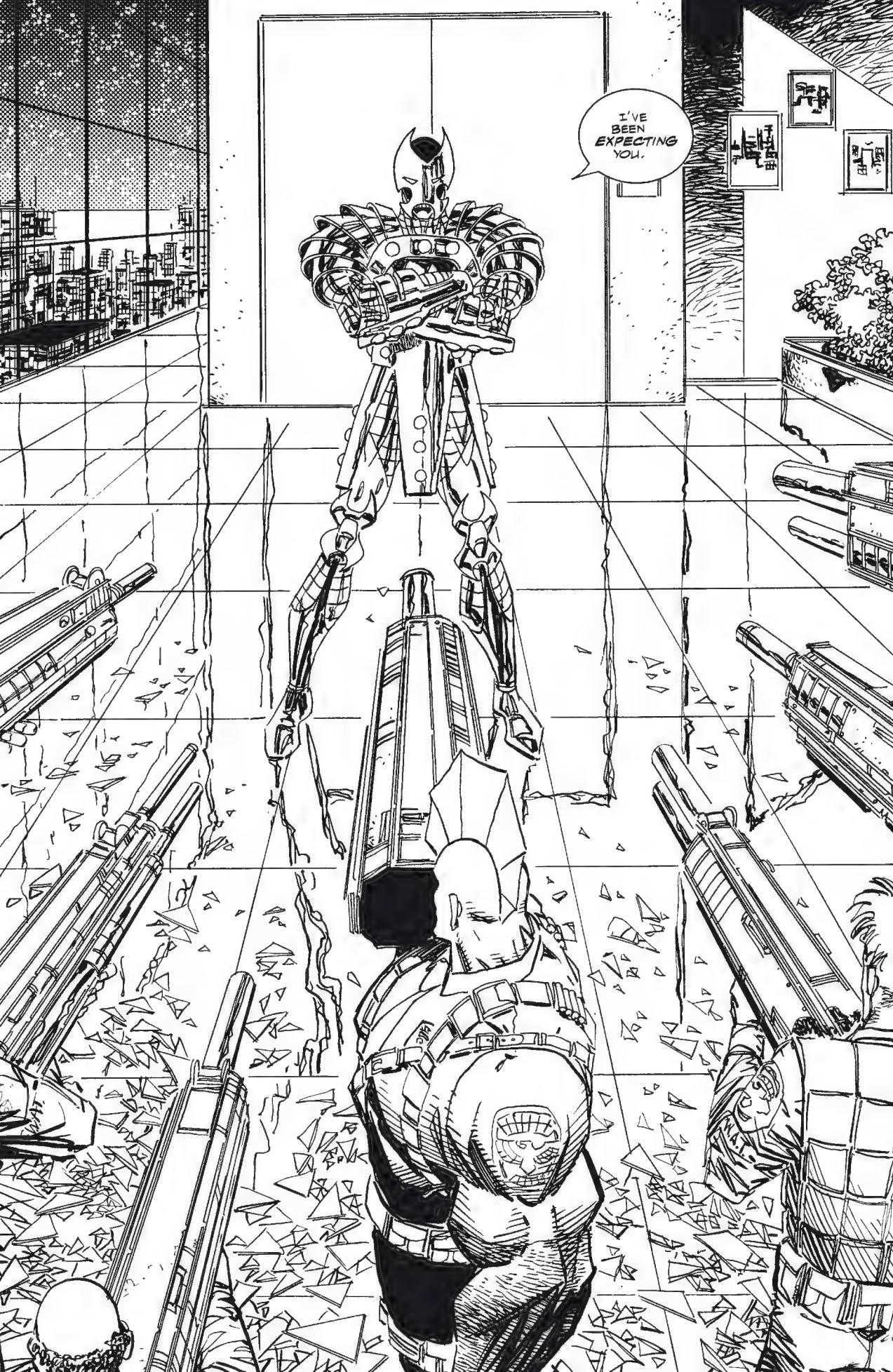
THIS IS JUST THEIR FIRST WAVE. THERE WILL BE MORE. WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE.
WE'VE GOT TO TAKE DOWN OVERLORD NOW.

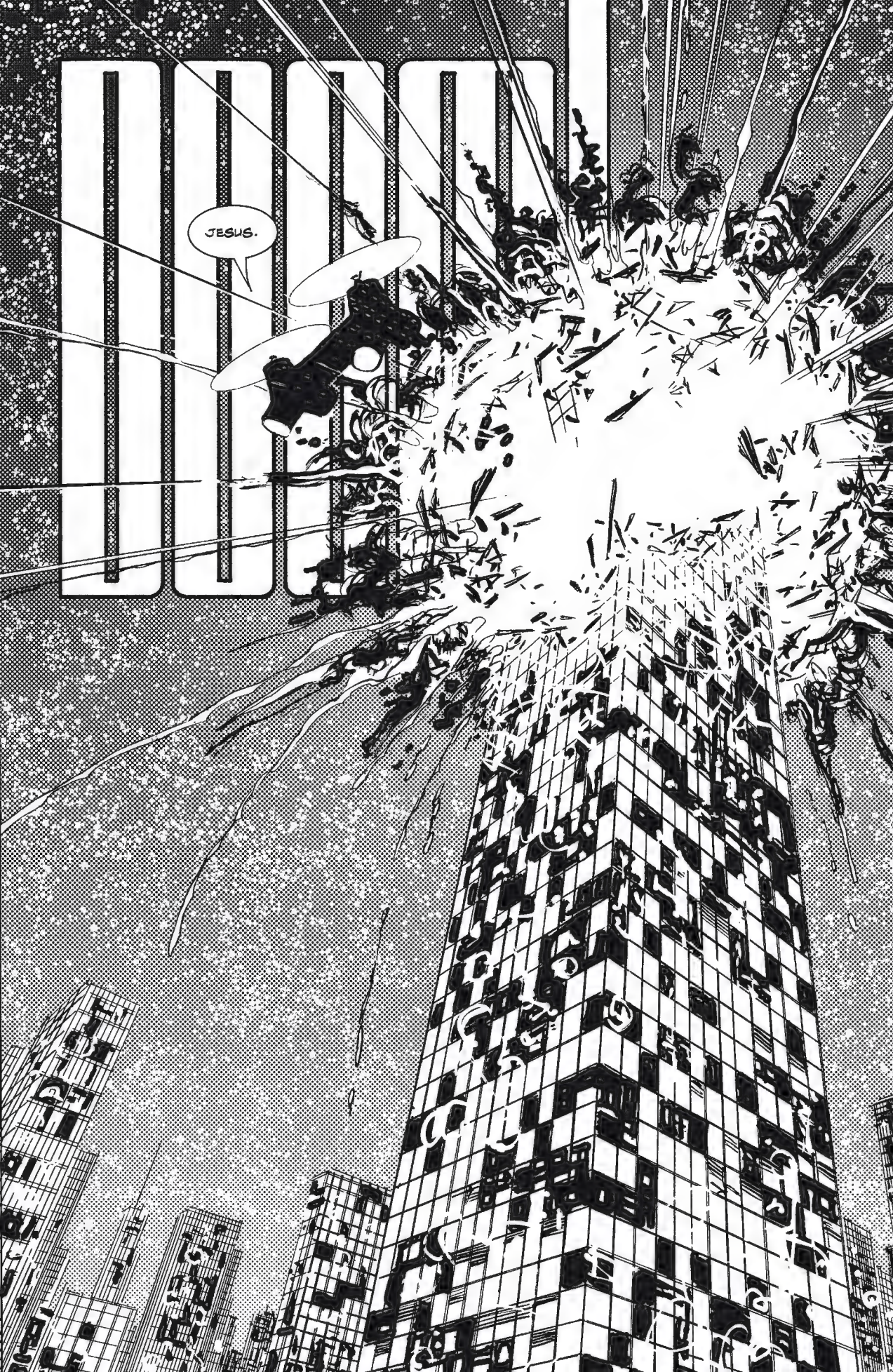
... AND THAT IS WHY HE MUST BE STOPPED.
THE VICIOUS CIRCLE IS RUN EVEN MORE EFFICIENTLY THAN THE MOBS. SINCE THEIR DEMISE, OVERLORD HAD HIMSELF BUILT INTO A METAL SUIT--BUT HE IS HUMAN NOT FREAK AND TO MAINTAIN HIS POWER, HE MUST REMAIN IN THE ARMOR.
IT'S BECOME HIS PRISON.
HE EATS, SLEEPS AND CRAPS IN THE SUIT. HE HAS NO OTHER CHOICE. HE LEADS THROUGH INTIMIDATION BUT HIS MEN HAVE NO LOVE FOR HIM--NO LOYALTY... BECAUSE... HE IS NOT ONE OF THEM.
HE'S THE LAST OF A DYING BREED AND WHEN HE FALLS --THE ORGANIZATION CRUMBLES. NOBODY STANDS READY TO TAKE HIS PLACE. NOBODY HAS BEEN TAKEN INTO HIS CONFIDENCE.
IT ENDS WITH HIM.
CYBERDATA BUILT THE ARMOR WITH MY MODIFICATIONS. I WAS OVERLORD'S PARTNER BEFORE ALL OF THIS--BEFORE HE BECAME OVERLORD AND I BECAME A FREAK.
HIS ARMOR IS NOT IMPREGNABLE-- THERE ARE FAIL SAFES DESIGNED TO SHUT DOWN HIS FORCE FIELD AND LIMIT HIS FIREPOWER. EVEN I DIDN'T WHOLLY TRUST HIM-- I HAD DOUBTS --THEY WERE-- WELL FOUNDED AS IT TURNS OUT.
THE BLINDSPOT THAT ALLOWED YOU ACCESS TO OVERLORD'S PRIVATE ELEVATOR HAS BEEN ELIMINATED. BUT THAT'S NOT THE ONLY WAY IN.
I CAN HELP YOU TO DEFEAT HIM. I'LL TESTIFY AGAINST HIM, I'LL REVEAL EVERYTHING BUT I MUST HAVE MY FREEDOM.
I MUST.
REST.
IT'S BEEN A LONG DAY FOR ALL OF US.
HELP US AND YOU'LL WALK, CYBERFACE. THAT I CAN GUARANTEE.
READY?

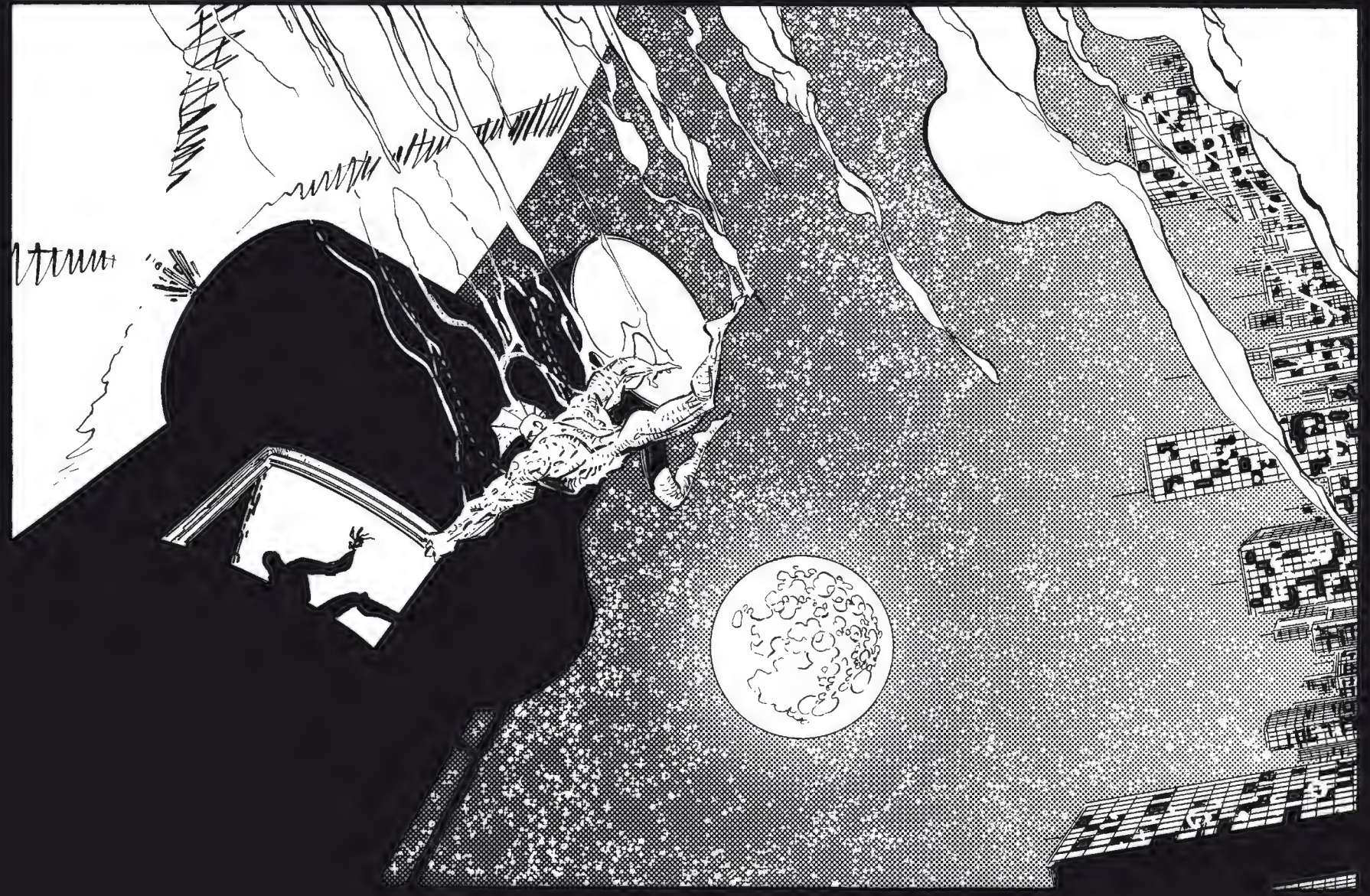
LET'S GO.
WANTED

WHOP WHOP WHOP WHOP
POLICE
--IT COMPLETELY FELL APART FOR ME THERE. I MEAN, HE WAS SITTING AT THE BUS STOP AFTER RUNNING BACK AND FORTH ACROSS AMERICA FOR A COUPLE YEARS AND HE MENTIONS THAT JOHN LENNON WAS KILLED.
THAT PLACES HIS MARATHON IN THE LATE '70S AT THE EARLIEST, RIGHT? LENNON WAS SHOT IN 1980.
SO, HE COULDN'T HAVE INSPIRED "HAVE A NICE DAY"-- IT HAD RUN ITS COURSE IN THE EARLY '70S AND AS FOR INSPIRING THE BUMBER STICKER-- THAT SLOGAN DIDN'T HIT 'TIL YEARS LATER.
NOBODY CARES, WALT-- IT WAS FUNNY, IT WON THE ACADEMY AWARD ALREADY-- GET OVER IT.
THE SMILEY FACE WAS TOO PERFECT-- I CAN'T BELIEVE ANYBODY BOUGHT THAT AT ALL!
--AND THE WHOLE LENNON BIT WAS A MISTAKE-- PUTTING WORDS INTO NIXON'S MOUTH IS ONE THING BUT HAVING SOME SIMPLETON INSPIRE THE LYRICS TO "IMAGINE" WAS JUST WRONG-- IT WAS PRACTICALLY BLASPHEMOUS.
JESUS-- NOW YOU'RE MAKIN' HIM OUT TO BE THE GODDAM SECOND COMING.
HE WAS ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL FIGURES IN HISTORY! HE CHANGED THE--
HE WAS A WEIRDO WHO TOOK PICTURES OF HIMSELF IN THE RAW WITH HIS UNCIRCUMCISED PECKER AND HIS UGLY GIRLFRIEND. HE BEAT HIS WIFE WHILE HE CHANTED "GIVE PEACE A CHANCE." HE AIN'T NO SAINT, WALT.
NOBODY CARES ABOUT YOUR NIT-PICKY CRAP ANYWAY-- THEY GOT A GOOD LAUGH AND ENJOYED TH' DAMN PICTURE.
I SUPPOSE YOU HAD A PROBLEM WITH--
WOULD YOU TWO SHUT UP... ?
CHRIST ALMIGHTY, WHAT'S A GUY HAVE TO DO...

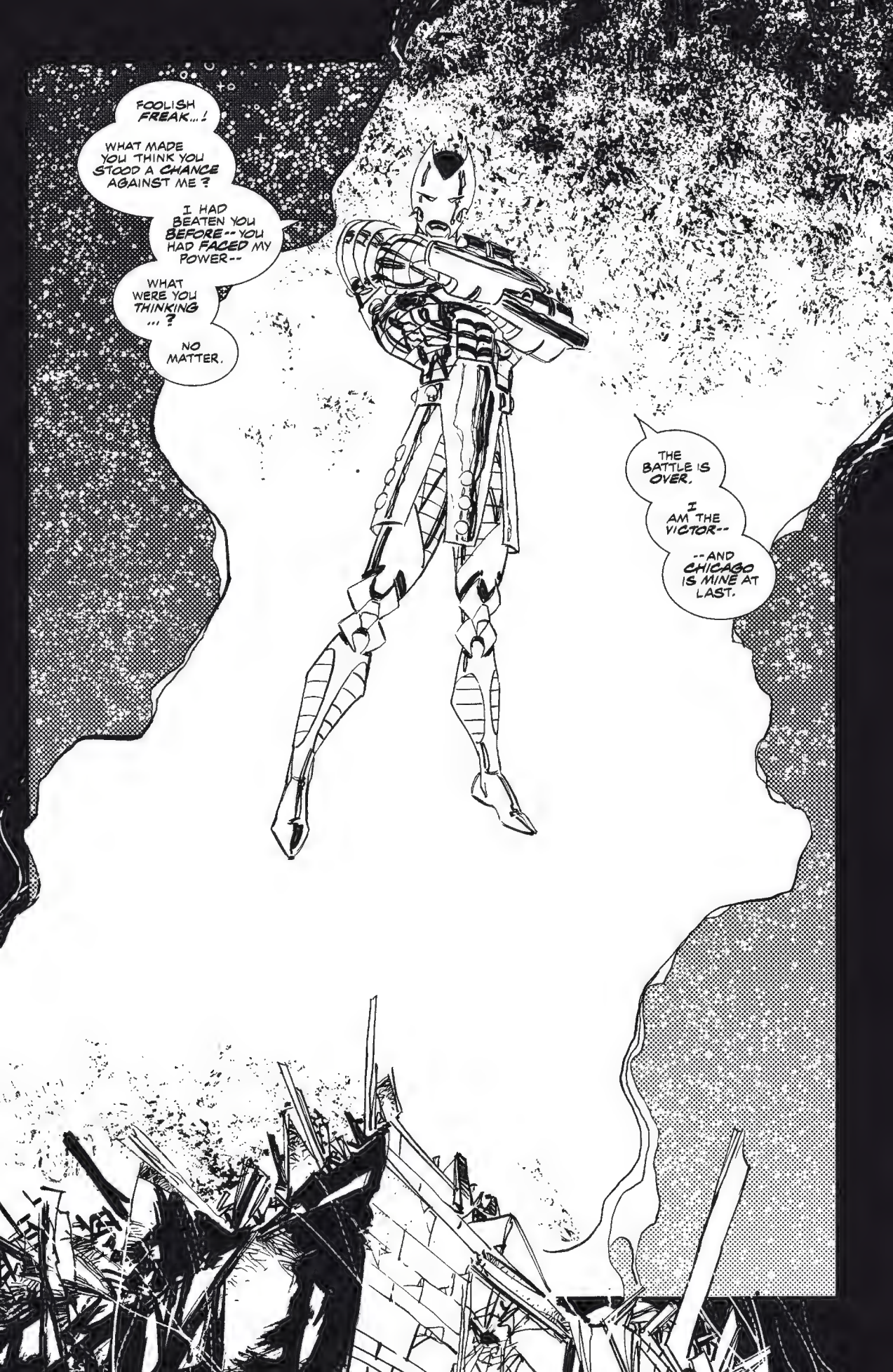
WHOP
WHOP
WHOP
WHOP
WHOP
WHOP
EASY.
WE'RE IN.
LOOK ALIVE, BOYS.
OVERLORD!
JESUS!
I'VE BEEN WAITING A LONG TIME FOR THIS.
NOW--
SURRENDER --OR FACE MY WRATH.

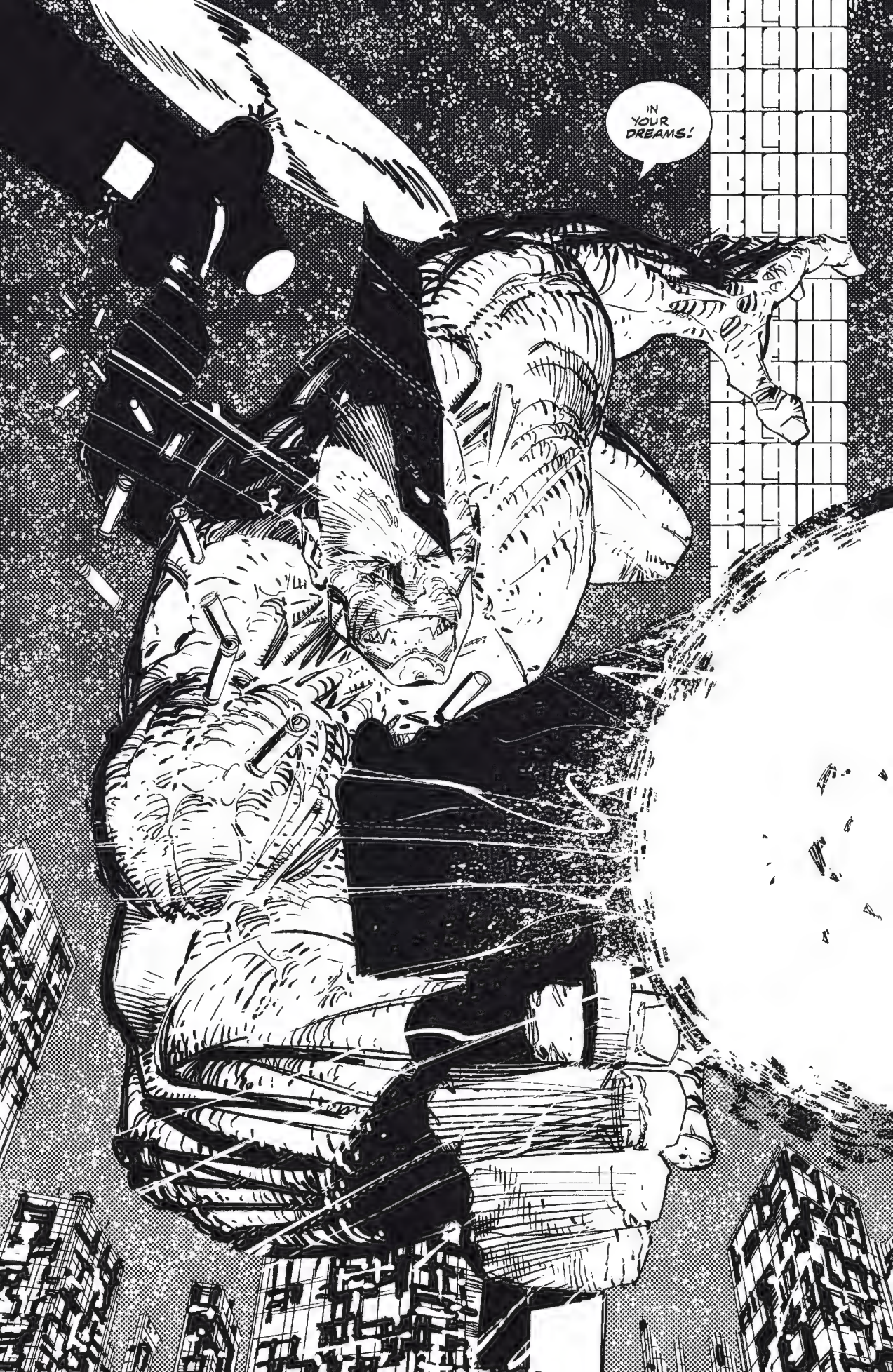

I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU.


BOOM
JESUS.



FOWLER, JONES, KANE, McCORMICK--
ALL OF THEM--
DEAD.
OVERLORD--
KILLED THEM.
I'VE HAD--ENOUGH.
GIVE ME WHATEVER YOU'VE GOT--
I'M GOING TO TAKE DOWN THAT SON OF A BITCH ONCE AND FOR ALL--
OR DIE TRYING!
SWAT

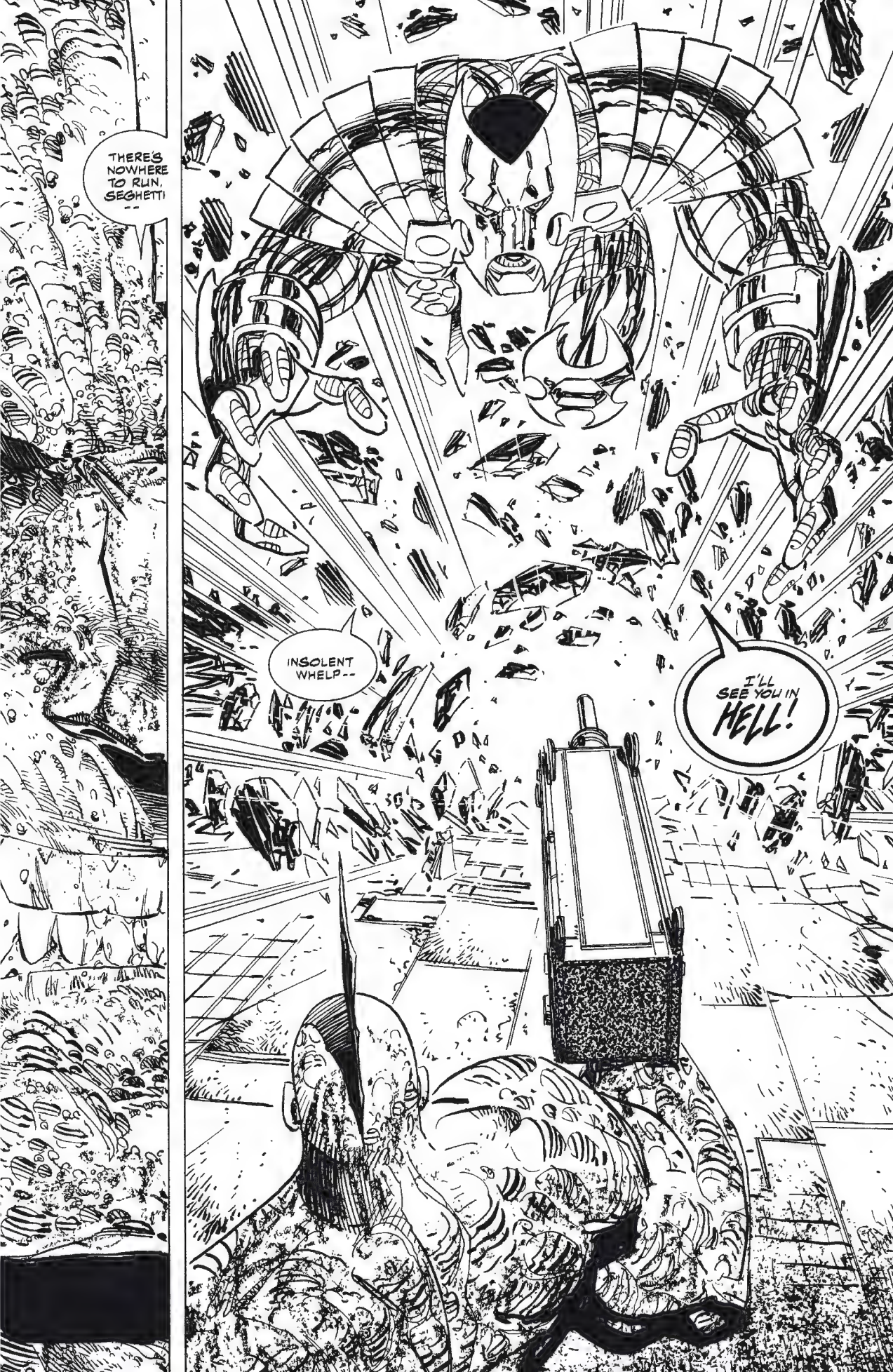

FOOLISH FREAK...!
WHAT MADE YOU THINK YOU STOOD A CHANCE AGAINST ME?
I HAD BEATEN YOU BEFORE--YOU HAD FACED MY POWER--
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING...?
NO MATTER.
THE BATTLE IS OVER.
I AM THE VICTOR--
--AND CHICAGO IS MINE AT LAST.

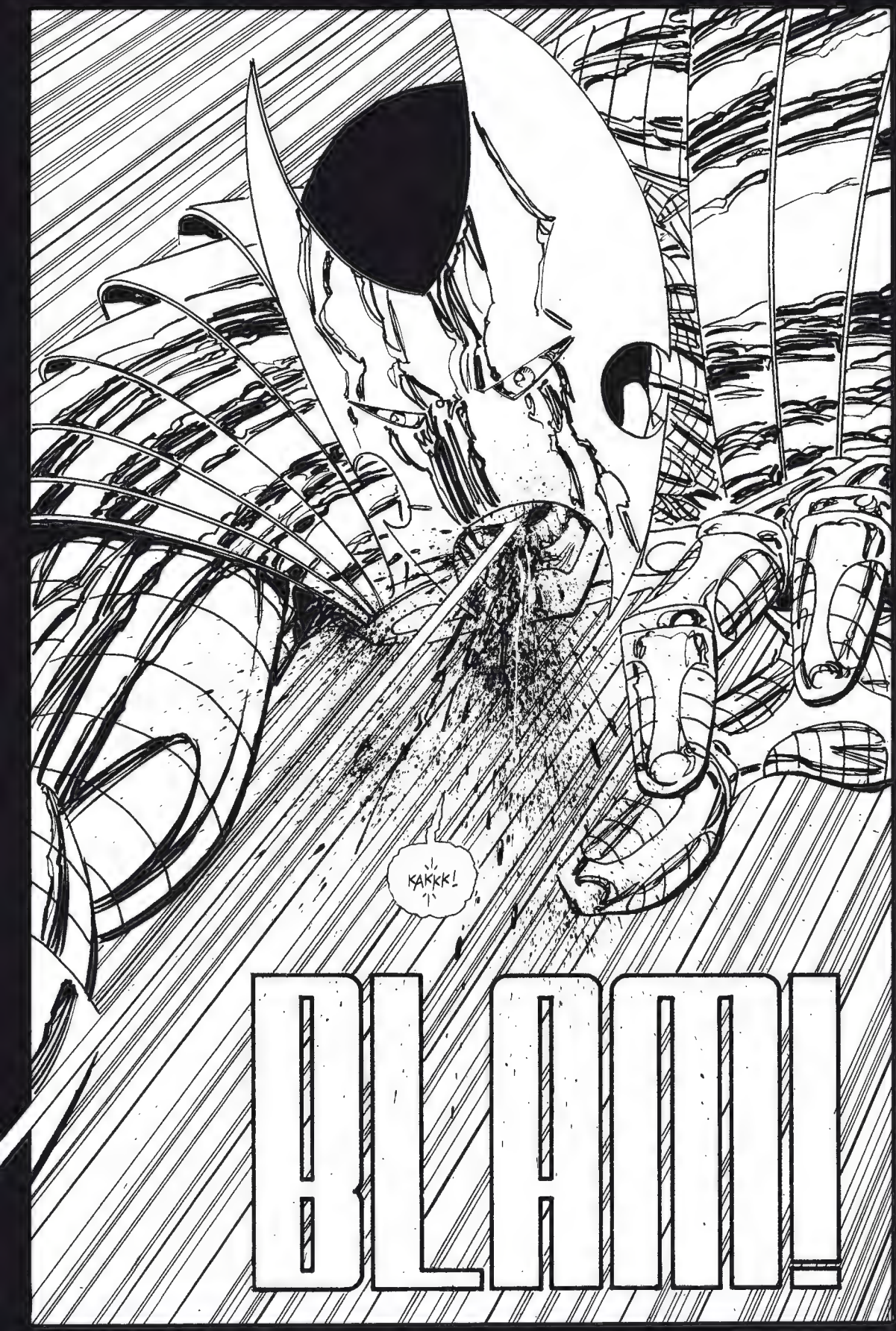

IN YOUR DREAMS!

TZNG!
YOU'RE ALIVE!
LET'S TAKE IT AGAIN FROM THE TOP, SHALL WE?
TZANNG!
TZING!

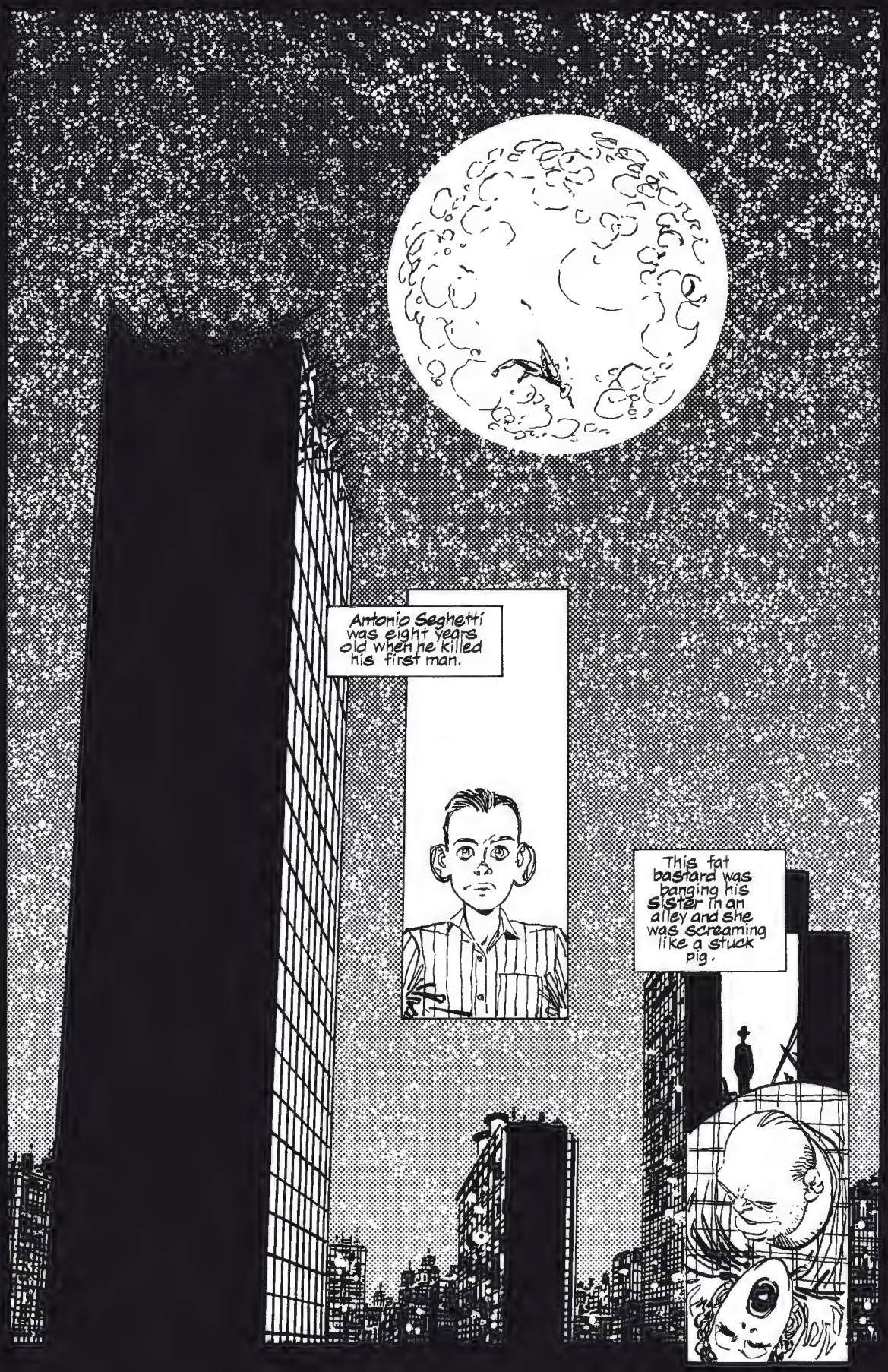
AND KICKING!
BOOM!
FOOK!

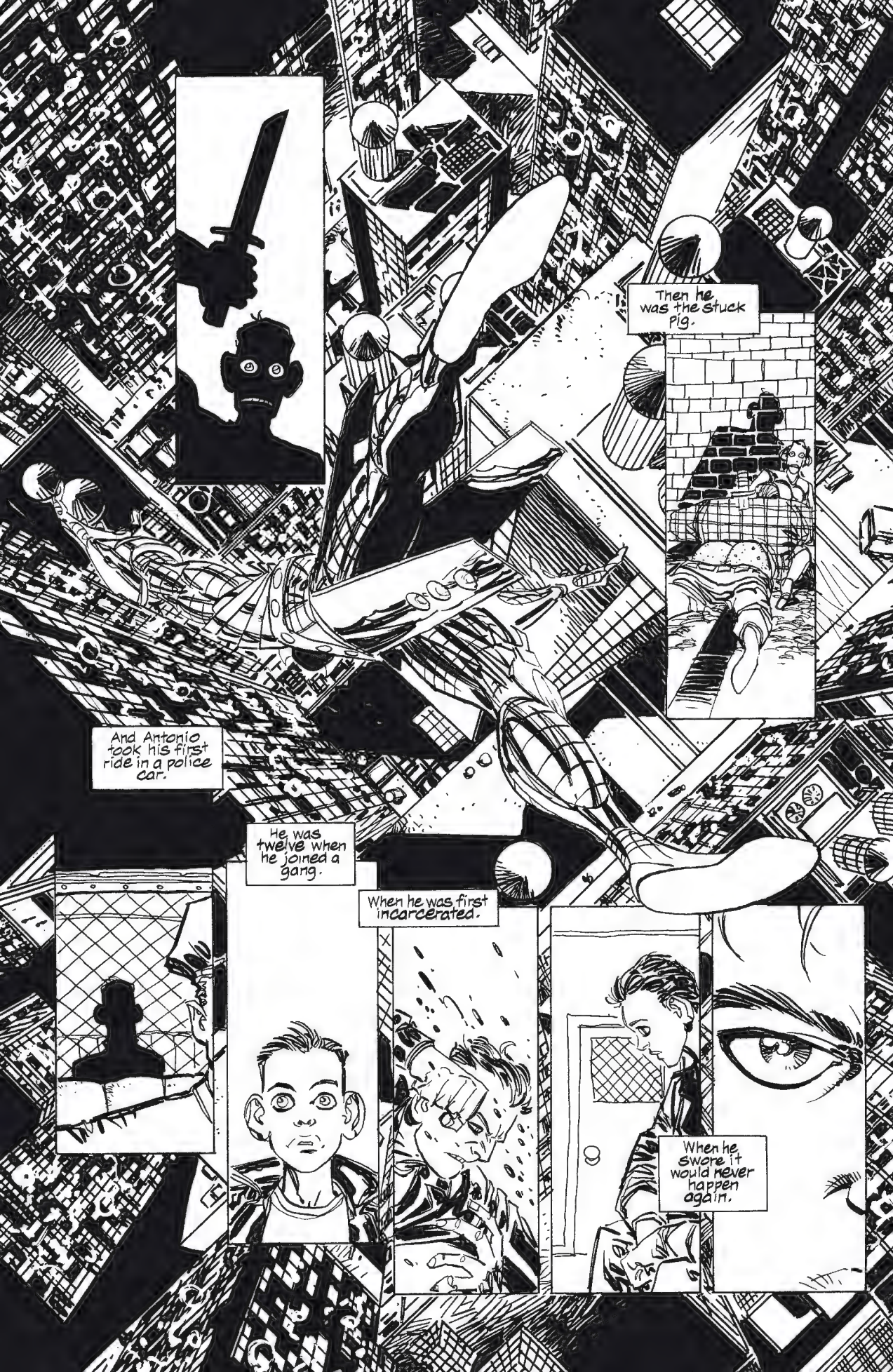
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST, SEGHETTI.
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT.
CYBERFACE TOLD ME ABOUT THE FAILSAFES HE'D INSTALLED IN YOUR ARMOR. I JUST DISABLED YOUR FORCE FIELD, ELIMINATED YOUR FLIGHT AND LIMITED YOUR FIREPOWER.
WE KNOW EVERYTHING, SEGHETTI! --HOW YOU BECAME THE HEAD OF THE CHICAGO MAFIA, HOW YOU SOLD OUT YOUR FRIENDS-- MURDERED YOUR ENEMIES.
HOW, WHEN THE FREAKS STARTED OVERRUNNING THE CITY, YOU HAD CYBERDATA BUILD YOU THAT ARMOR.
THERE'S A LONG LINE OF PEOPLE YOU'VE BURNED, SEGHETTI!--A LOT OF PEOPLE WILLING TO TESTIFY AND PUT YOU AWAY. YOU'VE MANAGED TO MAKE A LOT OF ENEMIES.
THE FREAKS DON'T LIKE YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THEM. YOUR MAFIA GOONS DON'T LIKE YOU BECAUSE YOU SOLD THEM OUT. THE CITIZENS OF CHICAGO DON'T LIKE YOU BECAUSE YOU'VE MADE THEM LIVE THEIR LIVES IN FEAR.
I'M NOT ESPECIALLY FOND OF YOU EITHER.
YOU'RE GOING AWAY, OVERLORD.
YOU'VE AVOIDED CAPTURE FOR A LONG TIME. YOU HAD ONE HELL OF A RIDE-- BUT IT'S COME TO AN END.
YOUR REIGN OF TERROR IS OVER.
YOUR UNDER ARREST --AND YOU'RE GOING TO JAIL.


THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN, SEGHETTI --
INSOLENT WHELP--
I'LL SEE YOU IN HELL!


KAKKK!
BLAM!

NO, YOU WON'T--
I'M NOT GOING.


Antonio Seghetti was eight years old when he killed his first man.
This fat bastard was banging his sister in an alley and she was screaming like a stuck pig.


Then he was the stuck pig.
And Antonio took his first ride in a police car.
He was twelve when he joined a gang.
When he was first incarcerated.
When he swore it would never happen again.

Killing became a way of life. After a while, it wasn't such a big deal.
He stopped thinking about it.
And then it was Antonio's turn in an alley -- with somebody else's sister.
He'd say she was asking for it.
As was the grocer he beat to death.
Nobody got in his way.
Nobody kept him down.
He went straight to the top.
And when the freaks asserted themselves,,,
A phone call was all it took.
And the problem was dealt with.
Even if it cost him his second hand man.
The mafia fell in chicago.
The Vicious Circle took its place.
Antonio Seghetti had job security.
And nobody--
Got in his way.
Nobody.

SKRAKKA

POLICE
THAT'S A WRAP, DRAGON--
OVERLORD IS FINISHED.
YOU DID IT.
YOU BEAT HIM.
LET'S CALL IT A DAY.
--IT'S TIME TO GO HOME.
YEAH, I SUPPOSE IT IS.

THAT GREEN FREAK KILLED MY MEN!
IT WAS BAD ENOUGH THAT WE LET HIM STAY ON THE FORCE AFTER HE SLAUGHTERED INNOCENT CIVILIANS, BUT THIS--
I CAN'T LET THIS GO UNPUNISHED!
I'LL SEE HIM FRY!
SHUT UP, YOU SORRY SON OF A BITCH--
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO INSISTED THAT "YOUR MEN" GO ALONG!
SEGHETTI BLEW UP THE BUILDING TO STOP OFFICER DRAGON AND "YOUR MEN" GOT CAUGHT IN THE BLAST!
YOU CAN'T PIN THIS ONE ON DRAGON, BULL--IF YOU WANT TO BLAME THE DEATH OF "YOUR MEN" ON SOMEBODY--TRY BLAMING OVERLORD--OR YOURSELF.
LEAVE DRAGON OUT OF IT!
THANKS, FRANK.
NO PROBLEM.
NOW, GET YOUR BUTT IN GEAR...
TIME TO MEET THE PRESS...!

THIS OUGHT TO BE FUN.
TRY AND RELAX, DRAGON-- THEY WANT TO FORGET ABOUT YOUR RAMPAGE.
THIS OUGHT TO DO IT.
...A VILLAIN ONE DAY, A HERO THE NEXT...
...AN ERA HAS COME TO AN END...
...WILLING TO FORGIVE THIS...
QUIET! QUIET!
HE'S HERE!
ON FOUR...
HONEY!
POLICE
RAPTURE!
OFFICER DRAGON...!
OFFICER DRAGON...!
OFFICER DRAGON...!
OH, BABY --I WAS SO WORRIED.
I HEARD WHAT HAPPENED --HOW YOU NEARLY GOT KILLED-- YOU ALL RIGHT?
PEACHY.
OFFICER DRAGON...!
OFFICER DRAGON...!
OFFICER DRAGON, YOU JUST SINGLE-HANDEDLY DEFEATED THE MOST NOTORIOUS VILLAIN THE CITY OF CHICAGO HAS EVER SEEN-- WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?
I'M GOING TO DISNEYLAND!

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A criminal mastermind called OverLord held the city in his terrifying grip.

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